



# Mini 4-H

# FORESTRY



## **An Introduction to 4-H for Youth in Grades K - 2**

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# 4-H Facts



**The 4-H Symbol: A four leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf.**

**4-H Colors: Green and White**

**The 4-H Motto: To make the best better!**

**The 4-H Pledge:**

**I Pledge  
My Head to clearer thinking  
My Heart to greater loyalty  
My Hands to larger service  
My Health to better living  
For my Club,  
My Community,  
My Country,  
and my World.**

# Mini 4-H

**Welcome to Mini 4-H!** You are now a member of the Elkhart County 4-H family! We hope that you will have lots of fun learning new things in your 4-H career.

Mini 4-H is designed for youth in Kindergarten through Second grade. It will give you a taste of the 4-H program as well as help you to explore a variety of project areas.

Mini 4-H'ers may enroll in two different projects each year. This manual contains fun, age-appropriate activities to complete throughout the 4-H year. These activities will help you to learn about the project you have chosen. Additionally, the manual contains all instructions for the exhibit you will be preparing for the Elkhart County 4-H Fair in July.

There is no competition in the Mini 4-H program. Each child who completes a project for the Fair will receive the same green completion ribbon and certificate. Judges comment sheets are provided only as a way to help you do your very best on future projects.

Mini 4-H does not have regular monthly meetings. Try to attend the special activities planned especially for YOU! These will give you a chance to meet the project leaders, have some hands-on fun, and ask questions about your important Fair display. Mini 4-H is FUN! You will enjoy it.

Once you enter the third grade you can join a regular 4-H club that meets monthly. You must enroll each year of your 4-H career.

If you have questions about the Mini 4-H program, please call the Purdue Cooperative Extension Office at 574-533-0554. We will be happy to answer your questions.

**As a Mini 4-H parent, please help guide and encourage your child through the activities. Work with them to help them to “learn by doing”. Activities are designed to help your child learn about the project they have chosen. It is not required that they complete all the activities. Choose those that interest you and your child.**

Developed by Purdue Extension – Elkhart County  
17746 County Road 34 Ste E, Goshen, IN 46528, 574-533-0554

**Elkhart County Mini 4-H Forestry Manual  
Revised October 2024**

## What is Forestry?

Do you like to take walks in the park or sit under trees in the summer? Have you seen animals or birds that make their homes in trees? Can you find things made of wood around your home? If you have questions about trees and how trees help us, Mini 4-H Forestry is for you!

Forestry is the study of trees. There are many different kinds of trees. Some trees grow fruit or nuts on them while other trees have colorful leaves and sweet smelling flowers. Each kind of tree is different and each tree has special jobs to do. A walnut tree grows walnuts that can be eaten by animals and people. A pine tree's leaves do not fall off in the winter so these trees can shield buildings from wind and snow. Oak trees grow tall and have a lot of big branches so they are perfect for keeping the sun off of people, animals and houses all summer long.

Trees also help us have fun. We can play in piles of leaves, swing from a tire tied to a tree limb, or build a tree house in a tree's branches high above the ground. Trees do a lot to help trees also. You will find out some of the ways trees and people can work together in this project activity manual.

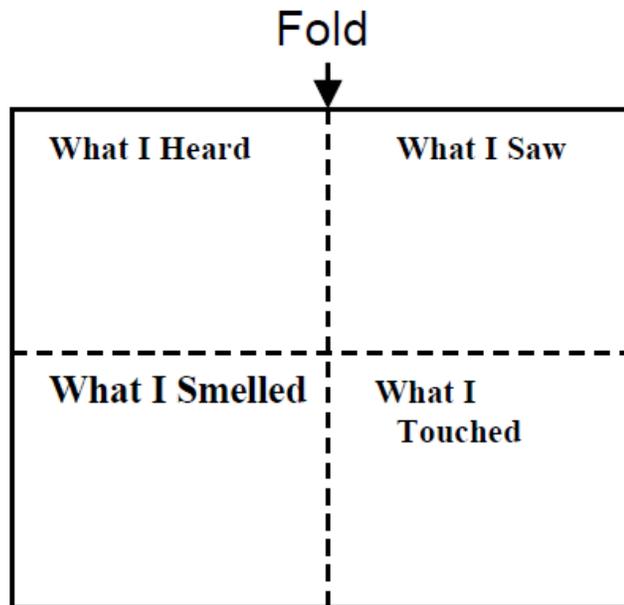
### Activity 1 - TEST YOUR SENSES

Take a walk in a forest, a woods, a neighborhood park or your yard. Listen - what do you hear? Look - what do you see? Sniff the air - what do you smell? Touch with your fingers - what do you feel? Try to remember as many things as you can so you can draw them when you return from your walk.

**Materials needed for this activity:** White drawing paper and crayons or markers

**What you will do:**

1. Fold your paper into quarters (4 sections). First fold your paper in half and then open your paper and fold it in half the other way.
2. Write "What I Heard" at the top of one of the sections and draw a picture of something you heard.
3. Write "What I Saw" at the top of the next section and draw a picture of something you saw.
4. Write "What I Smelled" at the top of the next section and draw a picture of something you smelled.
5. Write "What I Touched" at the top of the next section and draw a picture of something you touched. Share what you drew with someone else.



**Optional Activities:**

1. Collect 3 things on a walk in the woods. Have everyone talk about the things that were found (What those things feel like, look like, smell like.) Put all items aside. Choose one of the items and place it in a brown paper bag. Choose one child to come up and feel the item in the bag and guess what the item is. When the child guesses, have them choose an item to place in the bag for the next guesser.
2. Take a blindfolded walk with a friend. One person puts on a blindfold and the other person leads the blindfolded person to some interesting things to study by touch in the forest.

## **Activity 2 – SEEDS**

There are many different types of seeds that grow trees. The pecans, hazelnuts and walnuts we eat are really the seeds for trees. New trees grow when the seeds from trees are planted in the soil.

Have you ever wondered how seeds move from the tree to the places where they get planted? Even though some tree seeds are planted by people, many others are planted by animals. Squirrels, birds and other animals find acorns and other seeds for food. Before winter these animals gather extra seeds and store them by hiding them in holes in trees or in the ground. Sometimes the animals forget where they hid the seeds and the seeds stay in the ground long enough to grow into trees.

Some tree seeds have tiny stickers on the outside and stick to the fur of animals when animals walk by. The seed stays on the animal's coat until it is knocked off.

You may have had one of these seeds stick to your clothes. Sometimes the seed falls to the ground and grows into a tree.

Have you ever heard of a tree seed that could fly? Some tree seeds have wings on them and when the wind blows the seed flies along on the breeze. When the wind stops blowing, the seed drops to the ground and sometimes the seed grows into a tree.



Some seeds drop into rivers or streams and are carried away by the water. The seeds may wash up onto the shore and later grow into trees.

**Materials needed for this activity:** Pencil, crayon or markers, Acorn Matching Activity Page, and Design-An-Acorn Activity Page

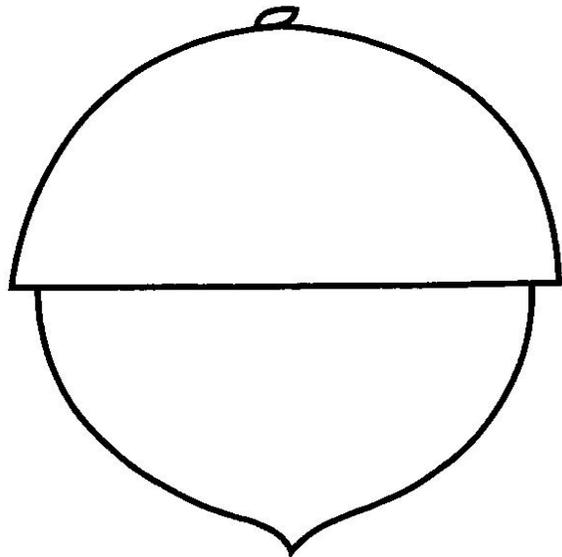
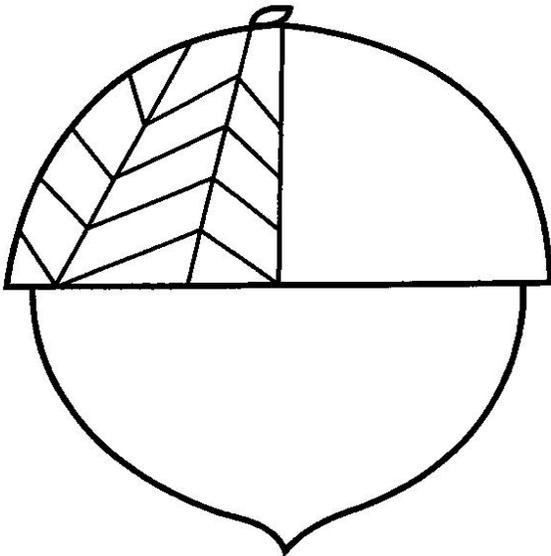
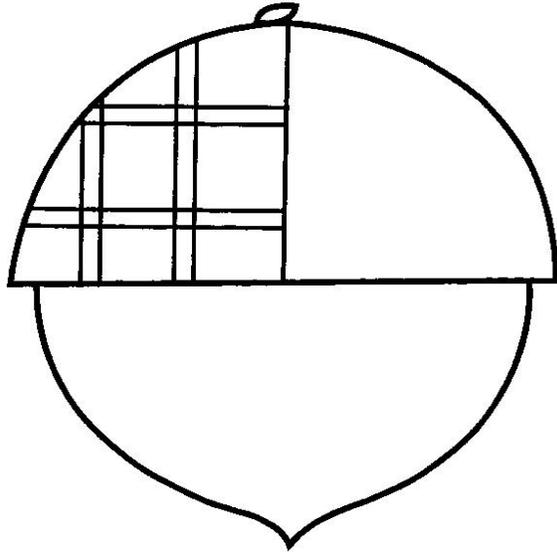
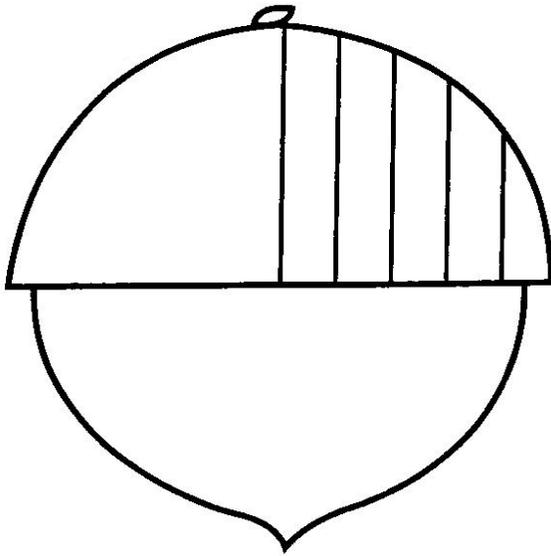
**What you will do:**

1. Follow the directions on the Design-An-Acorn Activity Page and the Acorn Matching Activity Page.

*Note: Some children may have difficulty recreating and/or matching some of the more intricate patterns.*

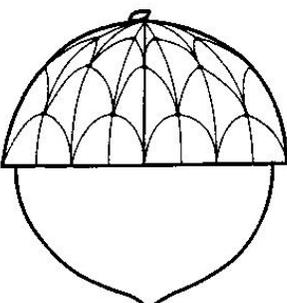
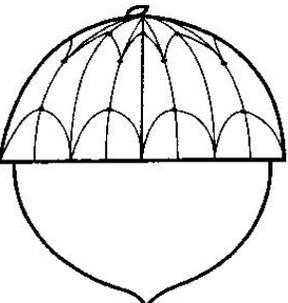
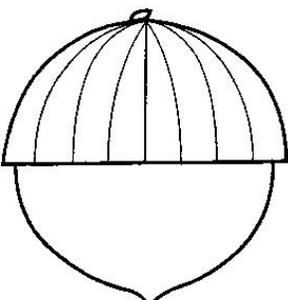
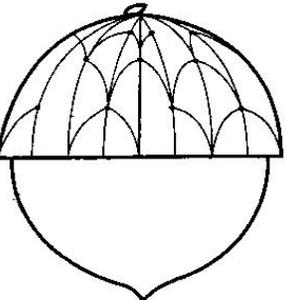
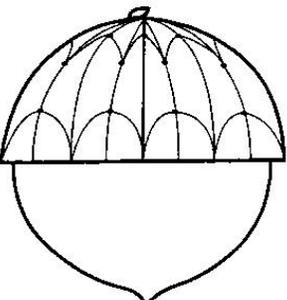
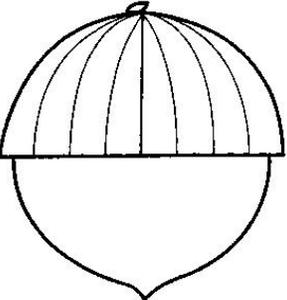
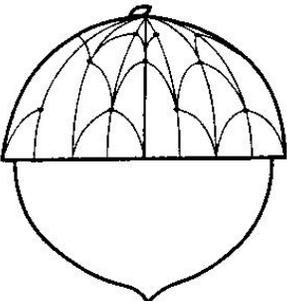
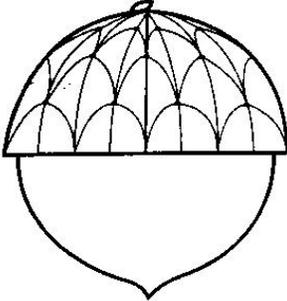
# Design-An-Acorn Activity Page

Finish the design on the acorns.  
Draw on the blank acorn to make your own design.



# Acorn Matching Activity Page

Draw lines from the acorns on the left side of the page to the acorns that are the same on the right side of the page.



## Activity 3 – A HOME FOR ANIMALS

Many small animals make their homes in branches of trees or live in holes in the trunks of trees. Have you seen a nest or a hole in a tree? Take a walk in a park, woods, neighborhood or school yard and look for animals that use trees for their home. Can you find a bird nest or a hole where a squirrel, raccoon, or hive of bees might live?

**Materials needed for this activity:** Animal Activity Page, Home Sweet Home Activity Page, scissors, and stapler

### **What you will do:**

1. Color the tree on the Home Sweet Home Activity Page.
2. Cut along dotted lines on the Home Sweet Home Activity Page.
3. **\*\*Lay Home Sweet Home Activity Page on top of the Animal Activity Page**  
and staple where you see this symbol: ▲
4. Fold back all the flaps that are not stapled to make doors.
5. What kinds of animals do you find behind the doors? What other kinds of animals live in the woods?

**\*\*Adults may need to help with the stapling.**

### **Optional Activities:**

1. Make a bird's nest out of shredded coconut. First, color the coconut with food coloring and press it firmly into a muffin tin. Once the coconut is shaped, remove it from the muffin tin and add peanuts and raisins to the nest for eggs. Have fun eating the nest you made.
2. Cut a piece of paper to fit in the bottom of a shallow container with sides, like a shoe box or a cake pan. Dip acorns or other nuts in paint and then drop them in the container and onto the paper. Move the container back and forth to create a design.

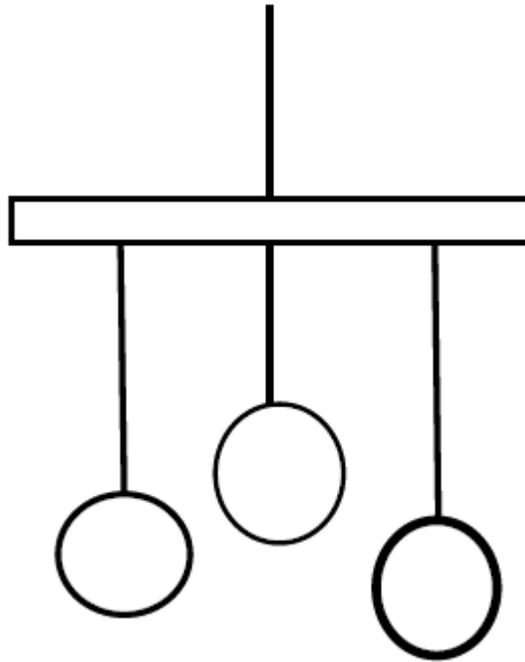
## Activity 4 – THINGS TREES GIVE US

There are many things that we use every day that are made from trees. Many of our homes, furniture and pencils are made from wood that comes from trees. Even the paper in this manual is made from trees. Look around your home and neighborhood. Can you name 4 things we have not talked about that are made from trees?

**Materials needed for this activity:** 1 large, sturdy paper plate, 3 small paper, plates, markers, magazines, scissors, glue, paper punch, and yarn

**What you will do:**

1. Cut pictures from magazines of things trees give us.
2. Glue the pictures to the 3 small paper plates so each plate is covered with pictures on the front and back. Try not to use two pictures of the same thing.
3. Use the paper punch to punch holes in the top of the 3 small paper plates. Punch 3 holes around the edges of the large paper plates. Be sure to space the holes the same distance apart.
4. Attach the 3 small paper plates to the large paper plates with yarn as shown in the picture. Use yarn to make a hanger for your mobile.



**Optional Activities:**

1. Write down everything in your house that is made from trees. (wood)

## **Activity 5 – TREES GIVE US FOOD**

Trees also give us food to eat. We get many different kinds of nuts from trees. People like to eat pecans, hickory nuts, walnuts and Brazil nuts. Do not forget that coconuts come from trees too. Fruit trees give us apples, peaches, pears, plums, maple syrup, cherries, vanilla, almonds and chocolate. Can you name other foods people eat that come from trees?

**Materials needed for this activity:** Paper and pencil

**What you will do:**

1. Go to the grocery store with your parents/guardian.

2. Make a list of all the foods you find that come from trees.
3. Think about which of these trees grow where you live or if they need a warmer climate.

How many did you find?

**Optional Activities:**

1. Put a number on the outside of a container. Put the same number of dots on the other side of the container. Encourage children to count out the matching number of acorns, pinecones or leaves to put in the container.

## **Activity 6 - WAYS TREES HELP US**

Trees help us in many ways. The leaves on trees make oxygen for people and animals to breathe. Leaves help make the air clean and keep it cool. Leaves fall from trees and decay, or rot. When the leaves rot, they turn into minerals for the soil. This helps to make the soil rich so plants and trees can grow and be healthy.

Trees help protect people, animals and property from sun, wind, rain and snow. Many times trees are planted to make a place look better. Trees add color and variety. Sometimes trees are planted so we cannot see behind them. They can help block a view that is not very pretty, like a bunch of trash cans. Trees can even block loud sounds that come from roads or factories.

Trees have lots of roots that grow deep into the soil. Water and wind can erode or wear the soil away if there is nothing to protect it. Tree roots help keep the soil from eroding because the roots hold onto the soil.

Homes for birds, squirrels, raccoons and other animals and insects are found in trees so we can enjoy these animals. You may not see these animals around your house without trees. Trees also give animals and people food to eat, like fruits, nuts and seeds.

The wood from trees is used to build houses, boats and furniture. Wood may have been used to make the pencil you write with. The paper in this manual is also made from wood.

Trees can be used to help us have fun. You can hang a swing from the strong branch of a tree or you can use the shade of a tree to keep you cool while you are having a picnic. You can rake the leaves that fall from a tree into a pile and then run and jump into the pile just for fun. Can you think of other ways trees help us have a good time?

**Materials needed for this activity:** Some Ways Trees Help Us Activity Page and scissors

**What you will do:**

1. Cut out each small picture and match it to the big pictures.

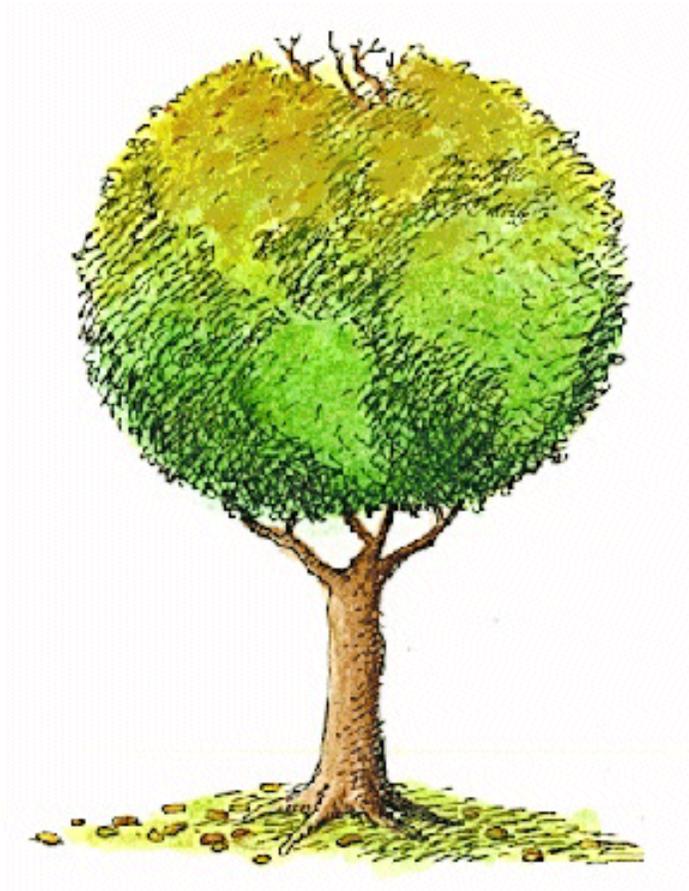
## **Activity 7 – TREES NEED WHAT PEOPLE NEED**

Trees need many of the same things you need to grow healthy and strong. Trees need good food and clean water just like you do. You can help keep the soil and water clean by recycling your used plastic, glass, paper and metal. When items are recycled, they are made into things we can use again. This helps save our natural resources so they can be used for other things Also, remember to always throw trash into a trash can and not on the ground.

**Materials needed for this activity:** Help Sam Find the Recycling Bin Activity Page and pencil

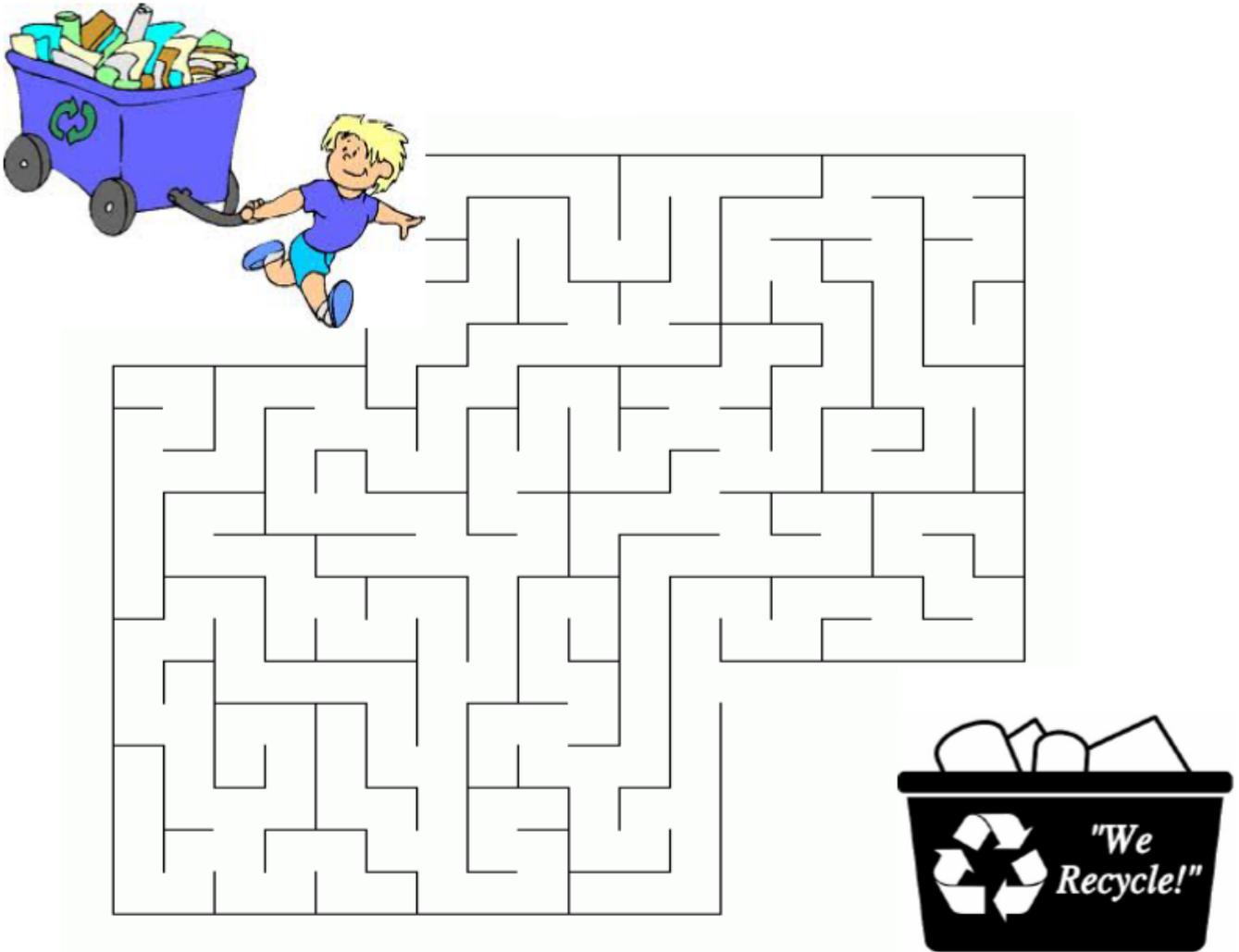
**What you will do:**

1. Draw a line from Sam through the maze to the recycling bin. Do not cross over the lines.



# Help Sam Find the Recycling Bin

Activity Page



## Activity 8 – WAYS WE CAN HELP TREES

There are many ways trees help people. Did you know there are also many ways people can help trees?

Trees need to be kept safe. You can help protect trees by not playing with matches and by reminding grown-ups to be sure their campfires are completely out before leaving a camp site. Never cut the bark of a tree or break off branches. This can damage the tree by letting germs in. This can cause the tree to get sick and die.

Trees need love. You can help plant trees in your neighborhood. Be sure to tell others all the ways they can help trees too.

**Materials needed for this activity:** Decoder Activity Page, Some Ways You Can Help Trees Activity Page, and pencil

**What you will do:**

1. Match and copy the letters from the Decoder Activity Page to the Some Ways You Can Help Trees Activity Page to find out what you can do to help trees.



# Decoder Activity Page

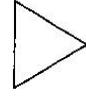
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B

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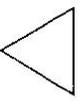
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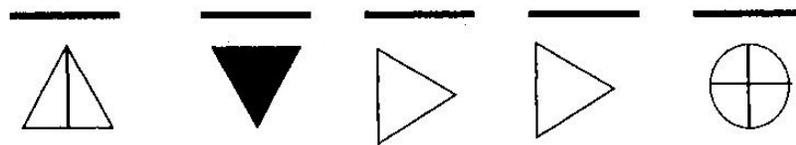
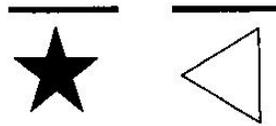
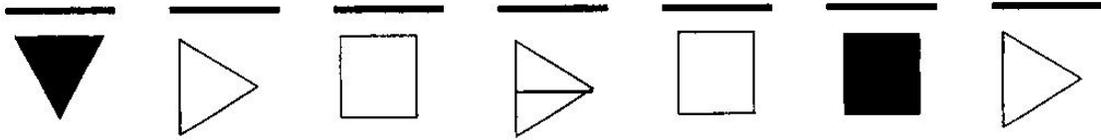
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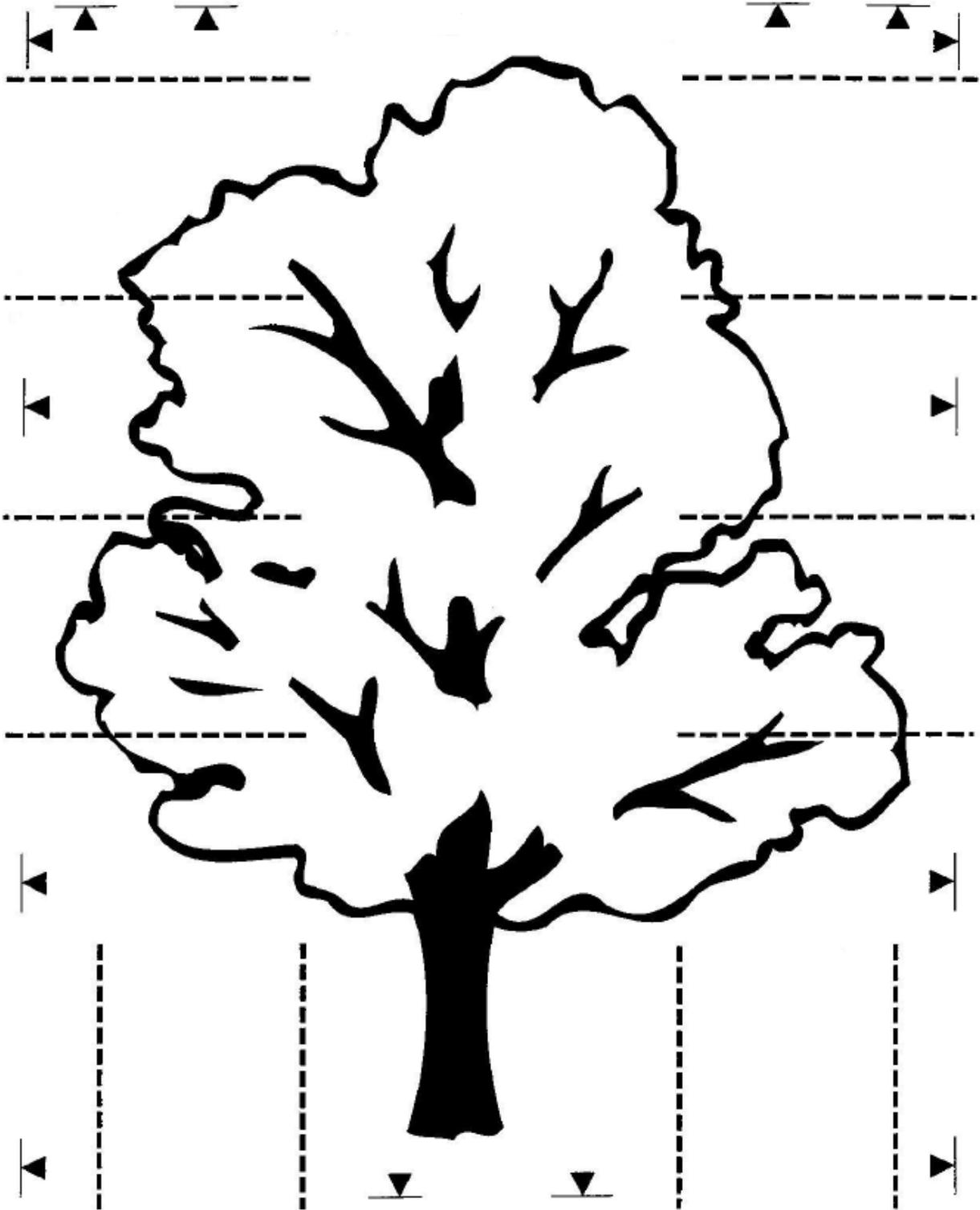
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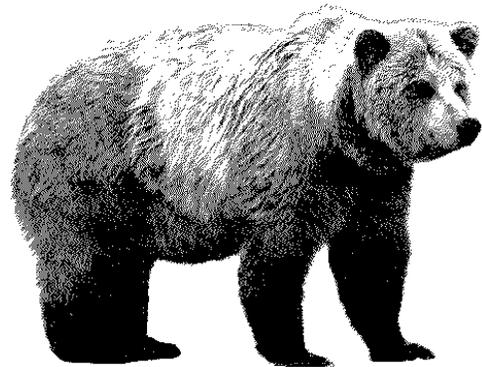
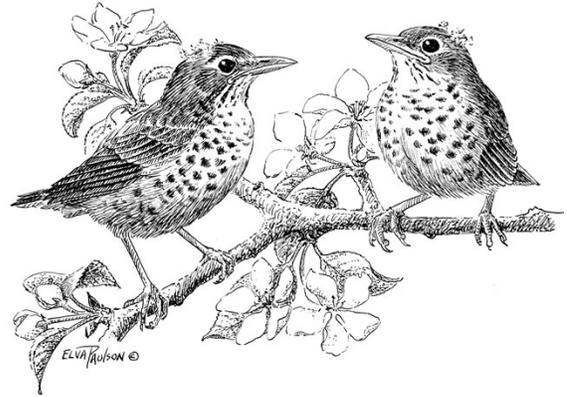


# Some Ways You Can Help Trees Activity Page

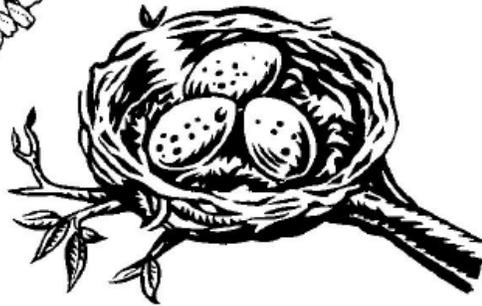


# Home Sweet Home Activity Page



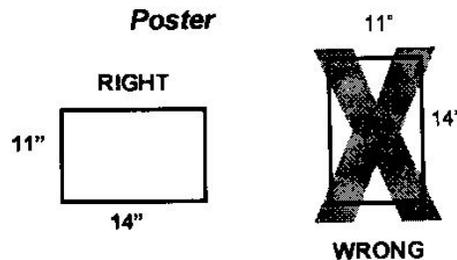


# Some Ways Trees Help Us Activity Page



# What to Exhibit Forestry

Make a Forestry poster. Your poster must be exactly 11 inches by 14 inches, displayed horizontally (wider than it is tall) and attached to a stiff backing (like cardboard). You may use foam board. Foam board is already stiff and does not require additional backing. Your poster must be covered with clear plastic. This can be a poster sleeve. If you have made a three-dimensional item, you may use clear vinyl. Your poster must have a title.



**NOTE:** No oversize posters will be accepted for exhibition.  
No un-mounted items will be accepted for exhibition.

## Choose one of these ideas for your poster!

1. An art collage out of things collected on a walk in the woods.
2. A poster showing things people can do to help trees or showing things people use that come from trees.
3. A story or poem about your favorite tree.

**NOTE:** If you are unable to pick your project up on Project Release Day, please make arrangements to have it picked up. All projects must be removed from the exhibit building on that day. There is no available storage space for unclaimed projects.

**All posters must include: (both are found on page 21)**

- Record Sheet (attached to the back of the poster).
- Exhibit Tag (attached in the lower right front corner of the poster).

**Exhibit Tag:**

|                 |             |             |              |               |                 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>Mini 4-H</b> | _____       | _____       | _____        | _____         | <b>Forestry</b> |
|                 | <b>Name</b> | <b>City</b> | <b>Grade</b> | <b>School</b> |                 |

**Record Sheet**

----- **Cut here** -----

**Name:**

**Grade:**

**Name some places you visited to learn about forestry.**

**Can you name two things trees give us?**

**Can you name two animals that make their homes in trees?**