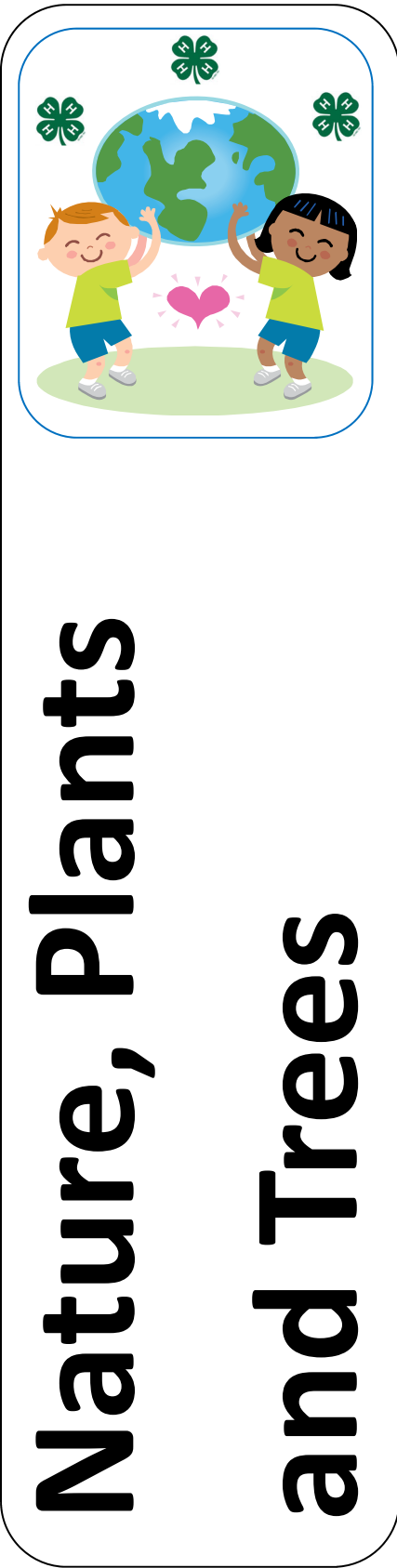
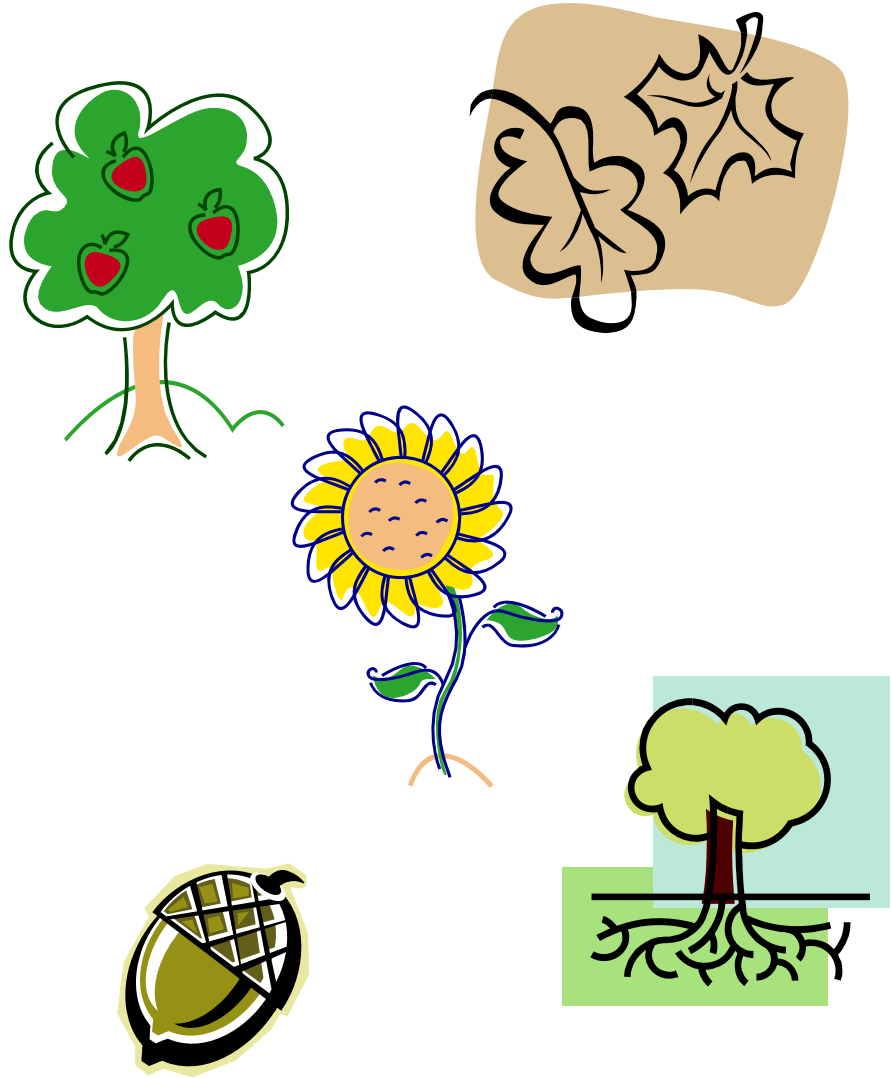


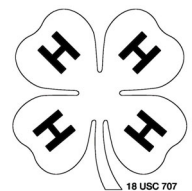
Nature, Plants and Trees



Hendricks County Mini 4-H



Developed by:



Karla Smith, Program Assistant-Purdue Extension Hendricks County

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Mini 4-H Parent's Page

We welcome you and your child to the Mini 4-H program. Mini 4-H is designed for boys and girls who are in either first or second grade during the current 4-H year.

As a Mini 4-H parent, your job is to guide your child through the activities. It is suggested that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. Learning by doing is the best educational tool that we can provide for our youth.

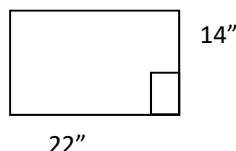
Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is set up to allow your child to exhibit a project at the 4-H Fair. This project is based on information within this manual. The 4-H Fair is an exciting time for 4-H members and families. It is a week that allows community youth to showcase their talents, interests and enthusiasm for learning.

Mini 4-H is fun! Your child will certainly enjoy it. You can have fun too, by guiding and helping as your child participates in the program. Encourage and praise your child as he/she has fun learning and sharing with you.

The Mini 4-H program is designed to supplement and introduce both first and second graders to the Hendricks County 4-H program.

Rules

1. Mini 4-H is open to any boy or girl who is enrolled in either the first or second grade on January 1st of the current year.
2. Any Mini 4-H participant may enroll in one (1) or two (2) projects. There are 15 projects to choose from. **Participants may exhibit only one (1) activity from a project book.** Additional activities can be done at home, but will not be exhibited.
3. Mini 4-H participants enroll in the County Mini 4-H club, and their projects are done at home.
4. **ALL POSTER EXHIBITS MUST:**
 - A. Have a solid, stiff backing, which is 14" high by 22" wide. This can be HEAVY cardboard or foam core board. The board must be able to stand by itself (Foam core board is available in the Extension Office for a minimal cost)
 - B. Be positioned HORIZONTALLY.
 - C. Have a total exhibit board no larger than 14" high by 22" wide.



All youth will need to complete Enrollment via 4Honline and Fair Entry will need to be completed by July 1st of the current school year. Exhibit Tags will be ready the week before Fair. More information will be sent home as the Fair approaches.

- D. Be COMPLETELY COVERED with CLEAR PLASTIC material. (Available in the Extension Office for a minimal cost.)
5. Mini 4-H participants will complete activities in the book. The Record Sheet located in the back of the project book needs to be completed and will be turned in with their exhibit at the Fair.

Mini 4-Her's Page

Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the 4-H family. You are a special person. Mini 4-Her's have a lot of fun! There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things. You can share it with your friends and family. Mom, Dad, or another adult can help you with your project. Bring your project to the 4-H Fair and lots of people will be able to see what you have done. You also get a ribbon made just for 4-Her's.

Here a few things to know about 4-H.

The 4-H Symbol: A four-leaf clover with an "H" on each leaf

4-H Colors: Green and White

The 4-H Motto: "To make the best, better"

4-H PLEDGE

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,

I promise to use my head to make good choices.

my **HEART** to greater loyalty,

I promise to use my heart to be a good friend.

My **HANDS** to larger service,

I promise to use my hands to do helpful things for others.

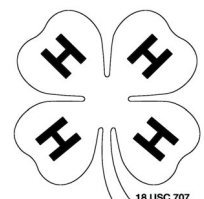
And my **HEALTH** to better living,

I promise to take care of my body and to show others to live in a healthy way.

For my club, my community,

I promise to help my group, my community,

My country, and my world.



Nature, Plants, & Trees Activities

Welcome to the wonderful world of nature! Nature is all of life working together. Nature is all around you. Use your eyes, your ears and your touch to explore. Nature changes every day, week, and month. Watch and see what changes you discover. The world's greatest show is right outside your door waiting for you to discover. You will learn more about animals, trees and your surroundings.

Before you get started:

- Pick an activity.
- Read the directions carefully.
- Make sure you have all of the needed materials.
 - Ask an adult or teenager to help you.
- Clean up your work area and put your supplies away when you are finished.
 - Complete your Mini 4-H Book pages.
- Complete the COUNTY TAG found at the end of this book and attach it to your exhibit.
 - ENJOY!

Exhibit:

First Grade: - Leaf Poster or Bird Feeder

- Completed Record Sheet

Second Grade: - Tree Poster or Tree Treasures Poster

- Completed Record Sheet

First Grade

Leaf Poster

Trees give us many things. Animals use trees for shelter. Trees grow nuts and seeds for birds and animals to eat. Tree roots help keep the soil from washing away. Their leaves decay and add nutrients to the soil. Trees give us shade, lumber for building and food to eat. Trees provide oxygen for us to breathe. Trees are beautiful! Leaves on trees are simple (one leaf) or compound. A compound leaf is made up of smaller leaves attached to the same stem.

Needed Materials:

- Poster Board (See page 3)
- **Some Indiana Leaves** sheet—in this manual
- Glue or Rubber Cement
- Phone book or newspapers with books to put on top to weigh down
- Pencil or Markers
- 5 Leaves

Directions:

In Indiana, the most common trees are: maple, oak, beech, hickory, sassafras, tulip and pine. You can tell what kind of tree it is by looking at the leaves. Each tree has a different leaf.

Using **Some Indiana Leaves** sheet, collect 5 leaves from different types of trees commonly found in Indiana.

Gently remove a leaf or two from the tree to use in your exhibit. Remember to ask the home owner if you can do this.

Place the leaf between black and white newspaper and weigh down with heavier books so the leaf will dry. You may also use the black and white pages of a phone book. Colored pages will not absorb the moisture of the leaf and it will not dry properly.

Mount them on a poster board (see page 19).

Under each leaf, identify what kind of tree it is.

Clean up your work area.

If this is your exhibit for the county fair, attach the County Tag.

Bird Feeder

Needed Materials:

- Pinecones/Toilet Paper Roll
- String
- Scissors
- Peanut Butter
- Bird Seed
- Spoon
- Newspaper

Directions:

Cover your work area with newspaper.

Cut string into 12" strand.

Tie one end of the string to a pinecone. If using a toilet paper roll, punch 2 holes one across from each other at one end of the roll. Pull the string through the holes and knot the other end.

Spread peanut butter all around the pinecone or toilet paper roll with a spoon.

Fill a bowl or plate with bird seed. Roll the pinecone or toilet paper roll in the seed until it is covered.

Tie or hang the feeders to a nearby tree.

Watch the birds eat!

Clean up your work area.

If this is your exhibit for the county fair, attach the County Tag. NOTE: Exhibit a Bird Feeder that **has not been** outside and used by the birds.

Second Grade

Tree Poster

Needed Materials:

- **Tree Pages**, in this manual
- Brown, Green, Red, Yellow and Pink Construction Paper or Crayons or Markers
- **Indiana Seasonal Trees Handout**—in this manual
- Poster Board (see page 3)
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions:

You are going to show the seasonal changes that happen to an apple tree. Climate and seasons cause changes in plants.

With the help of an adult or older youth, review the **Indiana Seasonal Tree Handout** to learn what a tree does during the different seasons.

Using the four trees on the **Tree Pages**, found in this manual, draw or embellish (use cut-outs) to make the trees look like they should during the different seasons in Indiana.

Mount your pictures to the poster board and add a title. (See page 19).

Clean up your work area.

If this is your exhibit for the county fair, attach the County Tag.

Tree Treasures

Needed Materials:

- Poster Board (See page 3)
- **Parts of a Tree Activity Sheet**
- Plastic self-closing bags
- Glue or rubber cement
- Pencil
- Colored Pencils or Markers

Directions:

Go on a nature hike and hunt for tree products (things made from trees other than leaves).

Try to go to an area that has many types of trees.

Take a bag or container to collect items found under the trees or hanging from the trees such as: pods, winged seeds that spin, acorns, pinecones, prickly balls, berries or bark.

Some items are seasonal, and may not be found. These items can be drawn. If the tree has fruit, you may draw pictures of it, so it does not go bad.

Once home, categorize items.

Place the items you collected in plastic bags so you may attach them to your poster board (see page 19).

Complete **Parts of a Tree Activity** sheet and attach it to your poster with the treasures you found.

Identify where on the tree you found your “treasures” or where they came from on the tree.

Give your poster a title. If you would like to draw additional items that you found, but could not bring home, that is fine.

Be Creative!

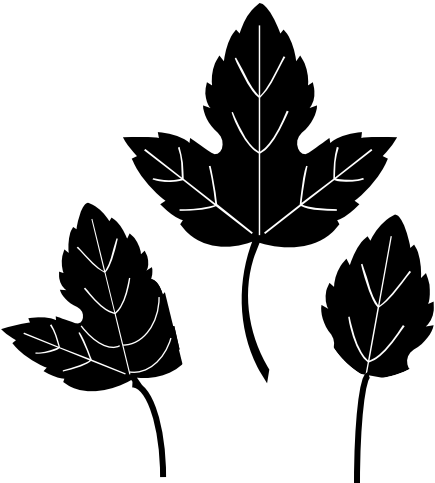
Clean up your work area.

If this is your exhibit for the county fair, attach the County Tag.

Some Indiana Leaves

Red Mulberry

Three simple leaves make up this exhibit.



Note: The Red Mulberry has jagged edges and has 3 different shaped leaves. The Sassafras Tree has 3 leaves which look very similar but their edges are smooth.

Sugar Maple Leaf

These are five-lobed leaves with the clefts between the lobes that are curved rather than sharp angled.



Red Maple leaves—not as deeply cut

Silver Maple leaves—deeply cut leaves and when the wind blows, these leaves take on a silver appearance

Black Oak

There are many oaks, the black oak usually has seven lobes.



Oak leaves are simple leaves.

White Oak

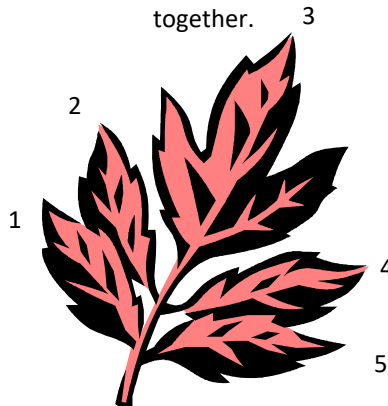
This is a rounded lobed leaf. Other oak leaves have bristle (pointed edges) tipped leaves.



This is a simple leaf and exhibiting one leaf is correct

Boxelder

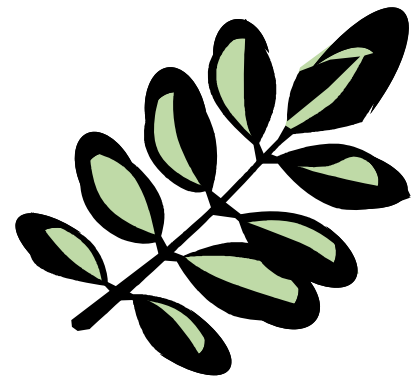
Contains 3 or 5 leaflets. This is compound leaf so all parts (3 or 5) must be displayed together.



To exhibit a compound leaf, all of the parts must be included.

Black Locust

A compound leaf with 7-17 leaflets. Display all of the leaflets to make a “leaf”.



To exhibit a compound leaf, all of the parts must be included.

Indiana Seasonal Trees Handout

- Plants need sun, water, soil, and food to grow
- Explore some trees in your yard or neighborhood with your child.
- Talk about what season it is and have your child describe the colors of the leaves on the trees.
- Look for items on the trees such as flowers, berries or empty branches.
- Look for any animals that make their homes in the trees, such as birds or squirrels.
- Observe the condition of the tree and relate it to the table listed below.

<p style="text-align: center;">Spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees absorb water through their roots and prepare for a hot summer • Trees start to bloom and bright, green leaves appear on trees • Trees will bud and start to flower • Some trees have a nice odor when the buds are present 	<p style="text-align: center;">Summer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The flowers or buds on the tree are gone and the leaves are bigger and greener • Some trees are fruit trees and the fruit is starting to develop on the trees
<p style="text-align: center;">Fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The leaves on the trees are starting to get dry and may begin to change color • The leaves will eventually dry up and fall off of the branches • Some trees have seeds or nuts that will fall to the ground during this time 	<p style="text-align: center;">Winter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All trees, except pine trees, should lose their leaves in Indiana • The branches remain and the tree is alive, but the leaves and fruit are gone • Observe the tree and see if you can find any animal nests that are normally hidden when leaves are present

4-H Fair Exhibit

Listed below are projects you can exhibit at the 4-H Fair judging. Check the fair book for the date and time it is due. The fair book may also list special exhibit rules. You may only exhibit 1 project from this book

If you have any questions about your projects, please call your Mini 4-H Leader or the Extension Office.

INCLUDE completed Record Sheet with your exhibit.

First Grade

- Leaf Poster
- Bird Feeder

Second Grade

- Tree Poster
- Tree Treasures

Mounting Your Pictures

Needed Materials:

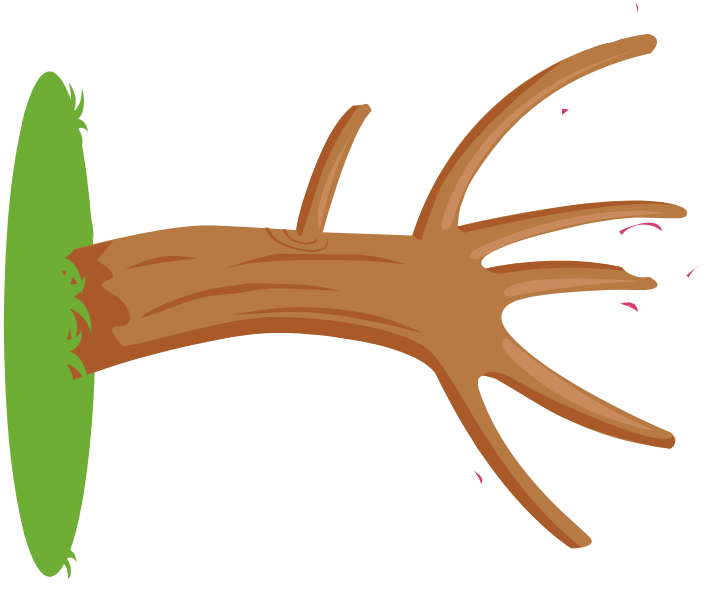
- Rubber Cement or double-sided tape
- Scissors
- Poster Board
- Clear Plastic

Directions:

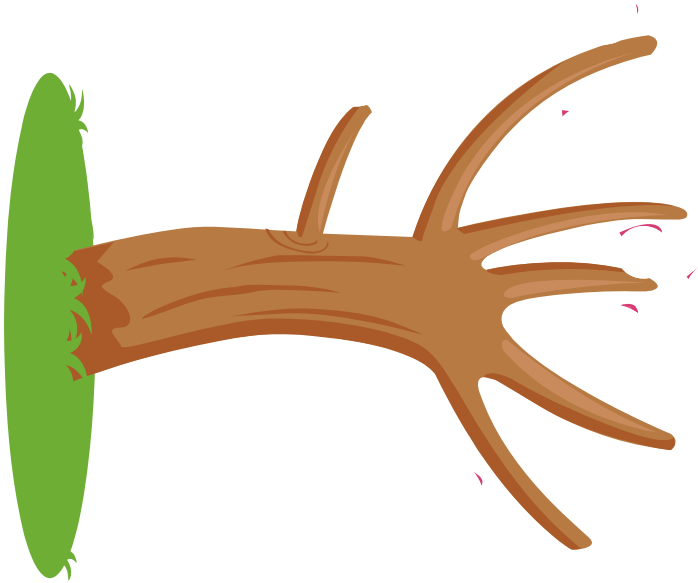
- An adult or teenager can help you cut the poster board. Cut a piece of poster board or foam board so it is 14" high by 22" wide.
- Use rubber cement or small pieces of double sided tape to secure items to your poster.
- Arrange the items neatly on your board. Be sure to include a title for your poster.
- Poster must be completely covered by a clear plastic material.

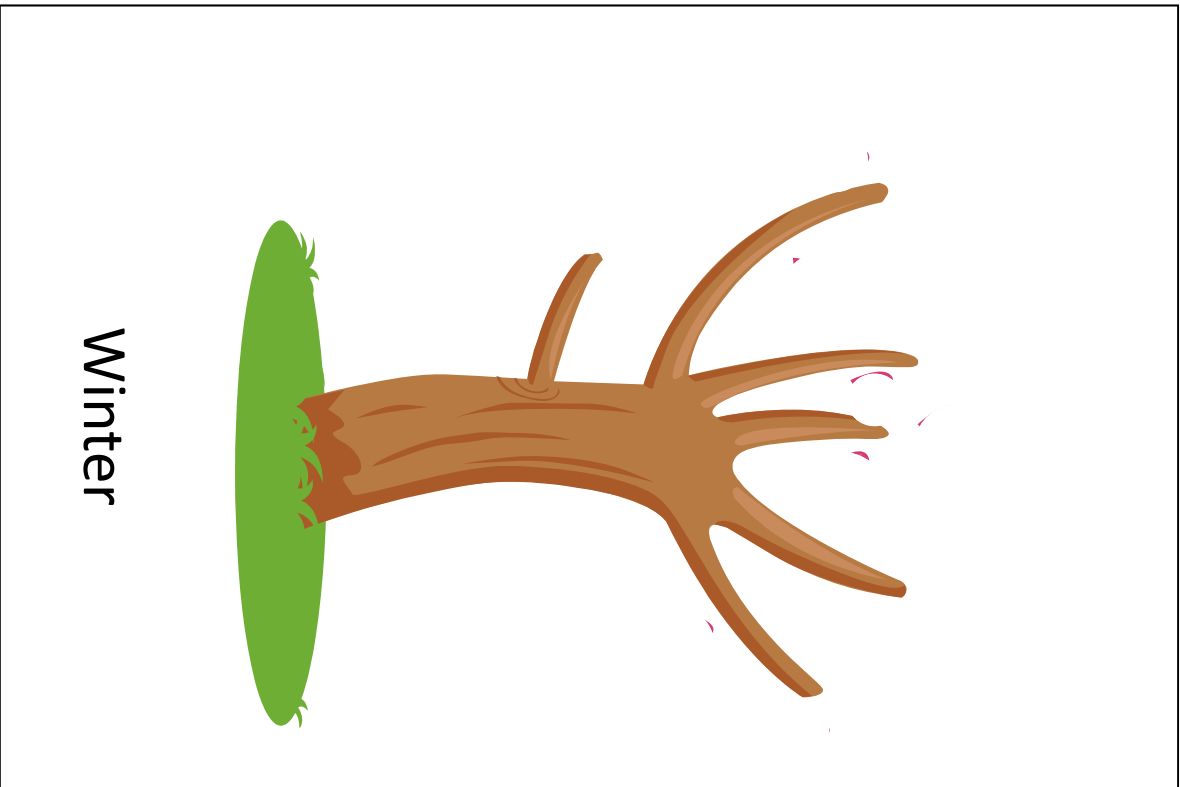
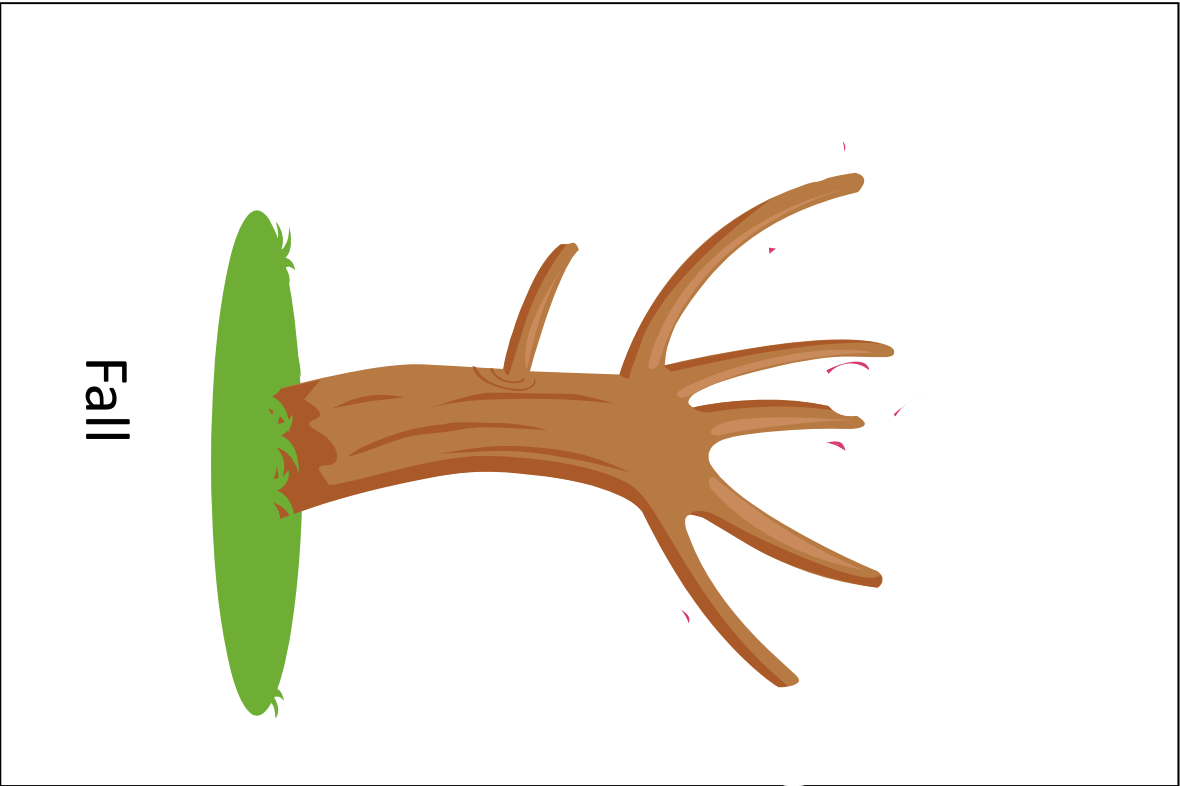
Good Luck at the 4-H Fair!

Spring



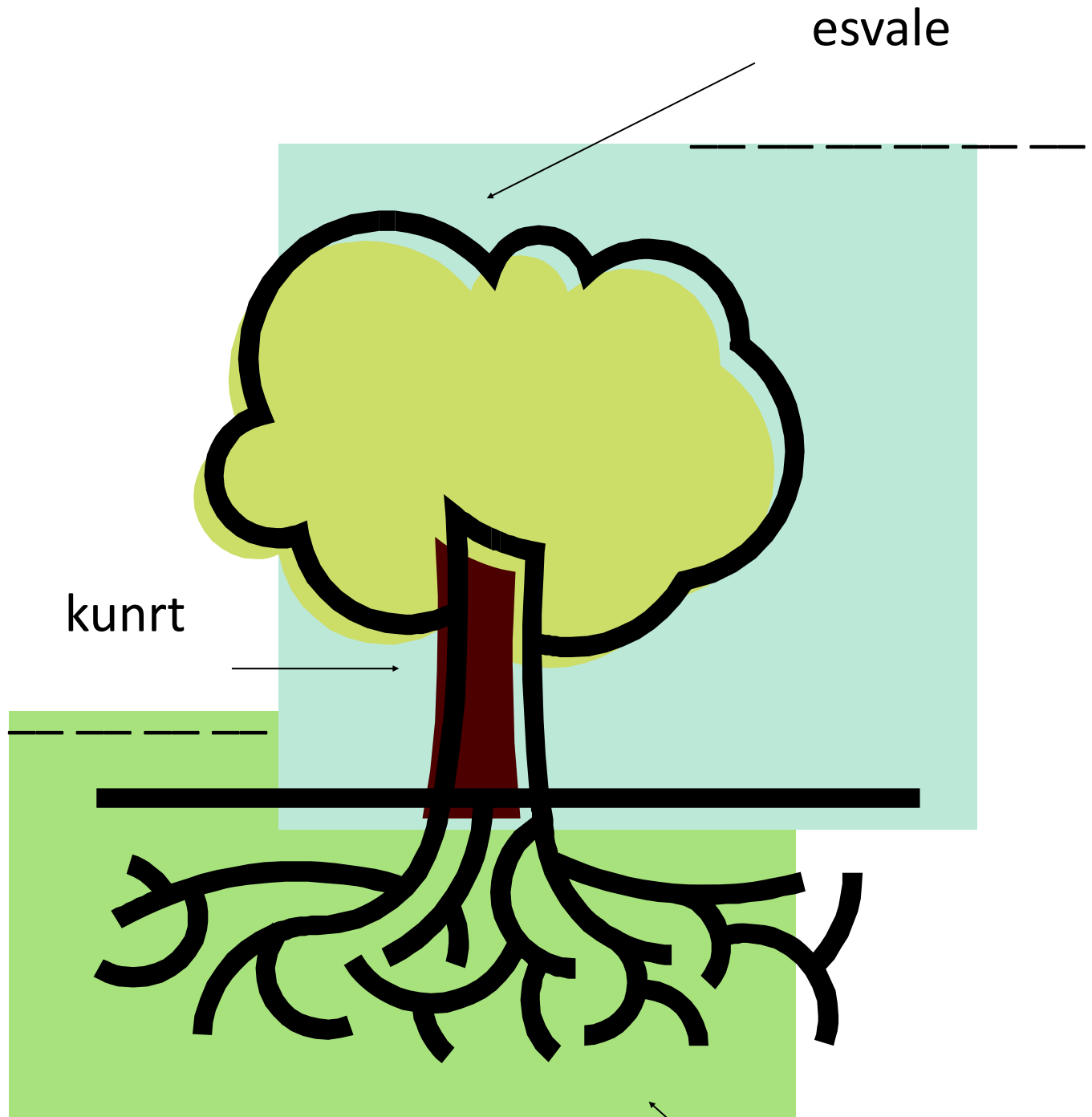
Summer





PARTS OF A TREE

Unscramble the letters to name the different parts of a tree.

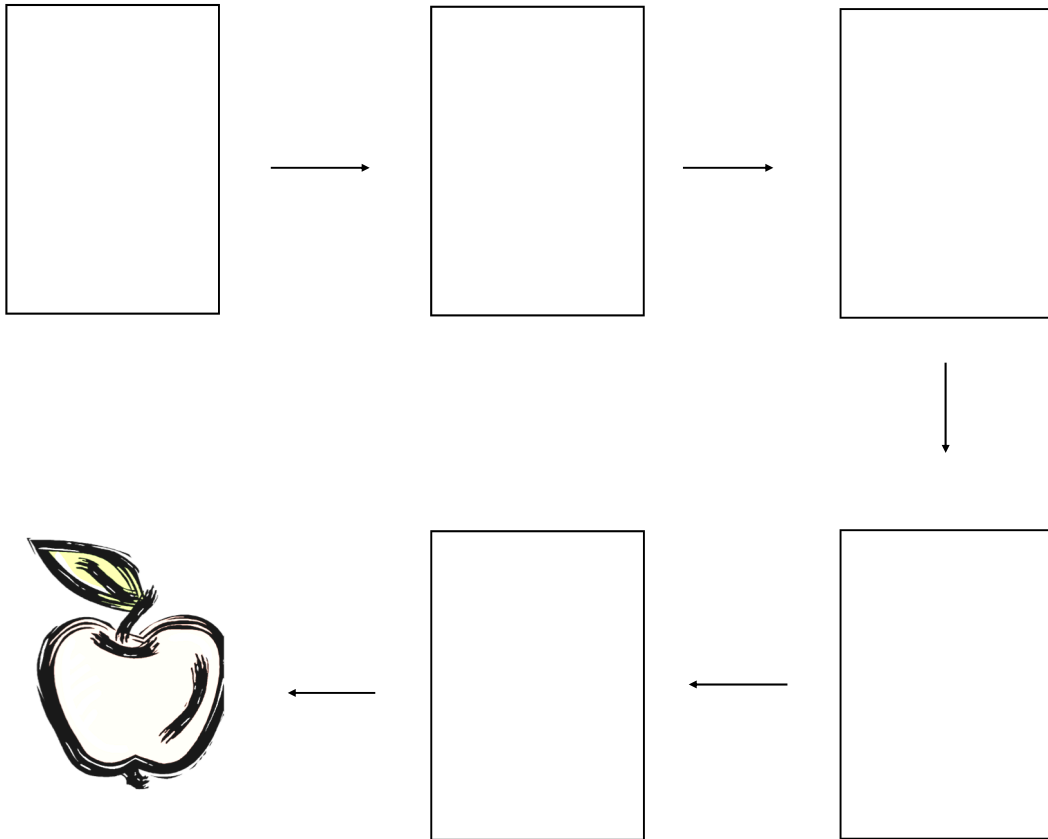


esvale

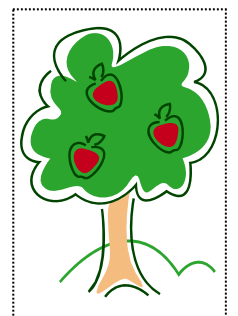
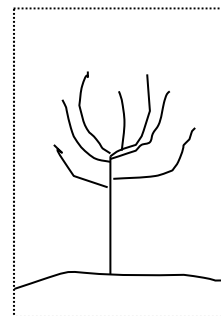
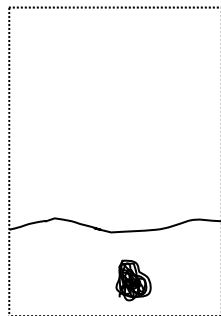
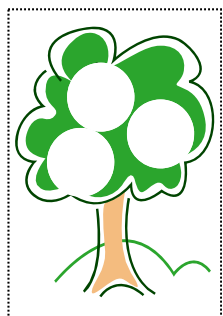
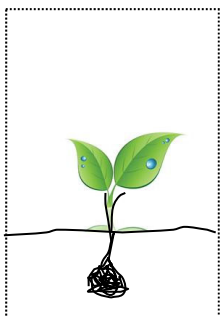
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How Do Apples Grow?

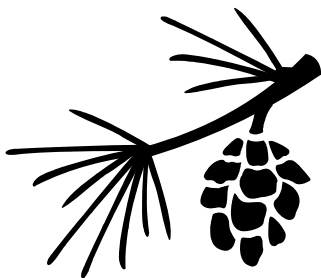
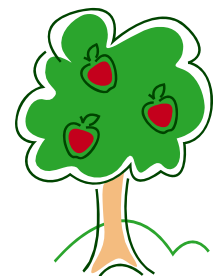
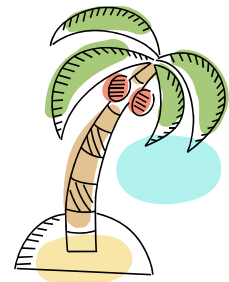
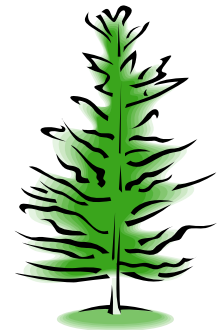
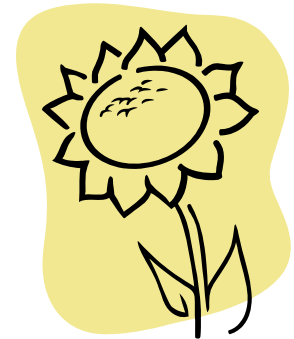
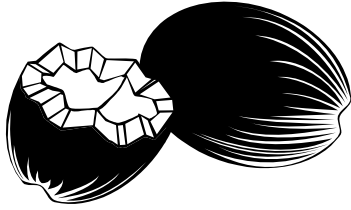


Cut out the boxes below and glue them in the boxes above in order of growth.

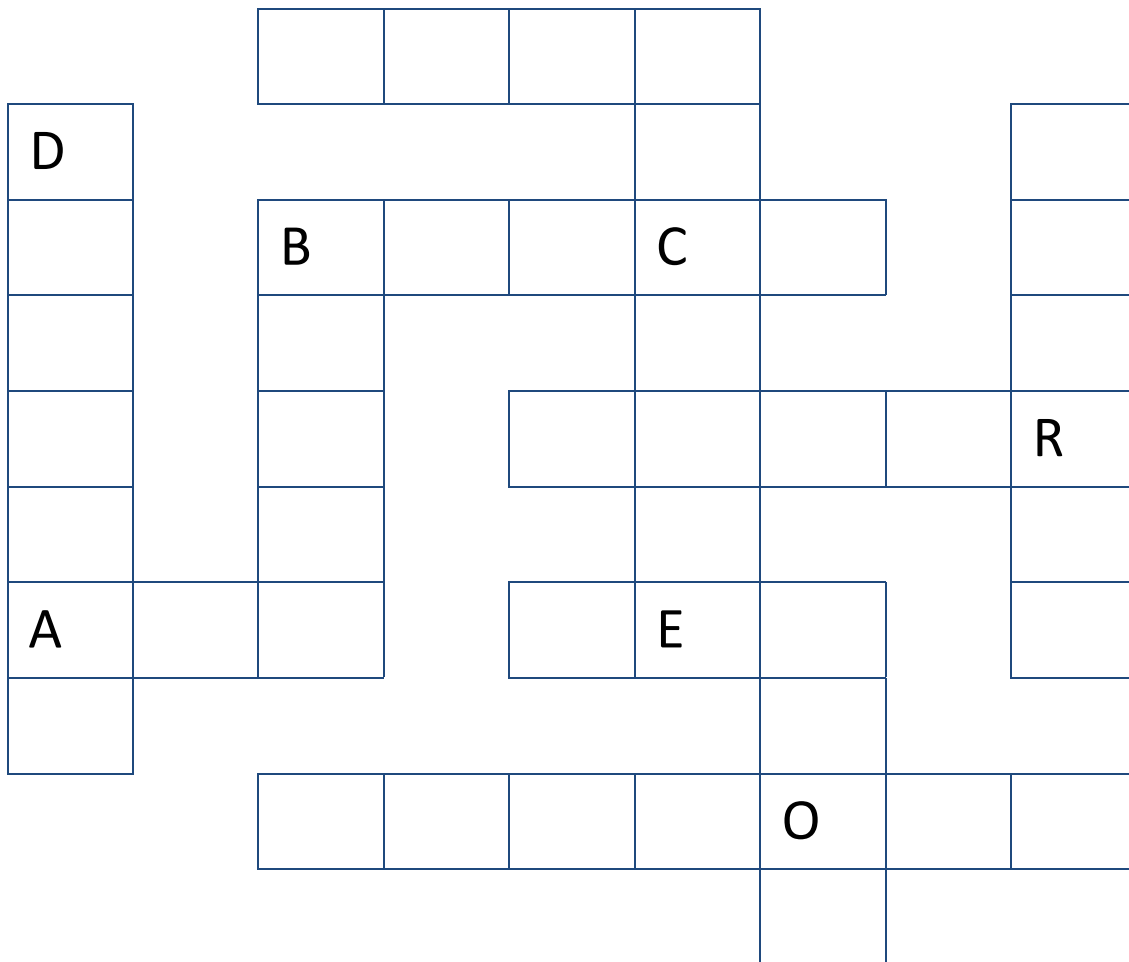


Seeds, Fruits, and Plants

Draw a line to match the seeds or fruits with the plants they come from.



Exploring Trees



Fill in the puzzle above with the trees or tree parts below.

ASH

CEDAR

LIMB

BEECH

CHERRY

WOOD

BIRCH

DOGWOOD

YEW

BUCKEYE

DOUGLAS





Mini 4-H

Nature, Plants, & Trees

Record Sheet

While observing nature I learned _____

While out in nature I found _____

My favorite tree is _____.

Name:

Date:
