

Greening Tree Activity Kit

Contents

- \$ Tree for posting on wall or bulletin board
- \$ Dark green leaves
- \$ Light green leaves
- \$ Buff coloured leaves
- \$ Tally sheets
- \$ Instructions – school-wide and classroom
- \$ Curriculum connections

Greening Tree Activity Kit

School-wide Instructions

This activity is intended to be a fun, visual way to track how students get to school. You could repeat this activity to see if your walk to school activities have made a difference in the number of students who walk to school.

Step 1:

- ✓ Choose one day within the specified dates when students will be asked how they got to school. Make sure that the day chosen is not a “walk to school day”. Also, students should not know in advance the day that is chosen.
- ✓ Identify a central location in your school where the greening tree will be located. The ideal location would be one where students, staff, parents and other visitors can see it.

Step 2: Two to three days before Activity

- ✓ Distribute to teachers a copy of the classroom instructions, class tally sheet, curriculum connections and an appropriate number of each colour of leaves and communicate to teachers the day chosen for the activity.
- ✓ Decide with teachers whether students will bring their leaves to the tree or if one representative from each class will bring the students’ leaves and the tally form to an identified location.
- ✓ Identify who will be responsible for putting the leaves on the tree – individual teachers with their students, older students, parent volunteers, or another staff member.

Step 3: Day of Activity

- ✓ During morning PA announcements, introduce the activity to the students and ask teachers to conduct the activity immediately following morning announcements.
- ✓ Have the leaves brought to the tree by the previously identified method.
- ✓ Have the leaves put on the tree by the appropriately designated people.
- ✓ Collect the class tally sheet with the leaves.
- ✓ Take a picture of your school’s tree and complete the school tally sheet.

Greening Tree Activity Kit

Classroom Instructions

Your school will be participating in a Greening Tree Activity. This activity is designed to track how students get to school in a fun, visual way. This activity could be repeated at a future point so your school can monitor its success in motivating more students and their families to walk to school rather than drive.

Step 1: Day or two before the activity

- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the instructions below and any curriculum connections you would like to use with your class.

Step 2: Day of the activity

- ✓ Following the introduction to the activity during morning announcements ask your students:
 - “How did you get to school this morning? Did you*
 - *Walk to school or ride your bike/scooter, etc.?*
 - *Ride the school bus?*
 - *Ride in your family or friend’s car or van?”*
- ✓ Give each student an appropriately coloured leaf based on their mode of travel to school.

Legend

- ▷ Dark green leaves = used active mode of transportation (walked or used bicycle, scooter, etc.)
- ▷ Lighter green leaves = rode school bus to school
- ▷ Buff coloured leaves = drove in a private vehicle (ie. family or friend’s car)

- ✓ (Optional) Students can print their name and age on each leaf and either draw a picture or write a sentence about how they got to school.
- ✓ Complete the classroom tally sheet.
- ✓ Based on the previously determined method, have each student’s leaf taken to your school greening tree and put on the tree.
- ✓ Have your classroom tally sheet taken to the identified area in your school.

Step 3: (Optional) Curriculum Connections

- ✓ Refer to the enclosed curriculum connections sheet for suggestions on how you can incorporate the information collected into your classroom learning.

Greening Tree Activity Kit

Curriculum Connections (Optional)

The information below is meant to give teachers some ideas on how to incorporate the Greening Tree into other classroom activities if they wish to. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list. If you use any of the ideas below or create some of your own please let us know on your classroom tally sheet.

Mathematics

- Before asking students how they got to school, ask them to estimate or predict the number of students who walked to school, rode the bus and were driven to school.
- After students have identified how they got to school, have them count the number of leaves of each colour. Ask the students to display these numbers in a graph.
- Ask students to compare different parts of the data and make statements about the data as a whole.
- Ask students to draw conclusions from the data presented.
- Ask students to compare the results with the predictions made beforehand.
- After all students' leaves from the entire school are on the greening tree, ask students to describe what they see (ie. More students walked to school than were driven, etc.).

Science

- Have students describe the impact on the environment if they were all driven to school and compare that to the impact if they used an active mode of transportation to school. (Note: a 1km car trip produces 0.2282 kg of carbon dioxide; 0.0016 kg of hydrocarbons; 0.0009 kg of nitrous oxides; 0.0134 kg of carbon monoxide; for total emissions of 0.2442 kg. Source: Citizens Advisory Committee on Air Quality, www.airqualitywaterlooregion.org).

Social Studies

- Have students describe who helped them get to school safely and the role each of these people played.
- Have students draw a map of their route to school.

Language Arts

- Have students write a story about how they got to school. This can be done on their leaves before they are hung on the greening tree.

Visual Arts

- Have students draw a picture showing how they got to school.

Dramatic Arts

- Have students role play how they got to school or an experience they had walking to school in the past.

Music

- Using a tune from a familiar song, have students create a song about their journey to school.

Greening Tree Activity Kit

Classroom Tally Sheet

Date:

Teacher:

Grade(s):

Number of
students in class:

Number of students absent
on "Greening Tree Day":

Number of students who used an
active mode of transportation to
school (walked, rode bike,
scooter, etc.): [Dark green
leaves]

Number of students who rode a
school bus to school: [Light
green leaves]

Number of students who rode in a
family or friend's car to school:
[buff coloured leaves]

What other activities did you do
or plan to do with your class
related to this activity?

Comments?

Please return this tally sheet to the designated person/location in your school by the end of "Greening Tree Day".

Greening Tree Activity Kit

Feedback Information for Active and Safe Routes to School

School: _____

Date of Greening Tree Activity: _____

Contact: _____

Phone #: _____

of students in school: _____ # of students absent on day of activity: _____ % students eligible for school bus: _____

Weather on day of activity: _____

1. Complete the chart below. You can choose to have an older student assist you.

	Primary	Junior	Intermediate
Number of students who used an active mode of transportation to school (walked, rode bike, scooter, etc.): [Dark green leaves]			
Number of students who rode a school bus to school: [Light green leaves]			
Number of students who rode in a family or friend's car to school: [Buff coloured leaves]			

What other activities did classes do or plan to do related to this activity?

What suggestions do you have for when you repeat this activity at a later date? (e.g. additional resources, improved process, etc.)











