

Trees



This series of Play School is all about trees. Trees play a fundamental role in our lives – providing beauty, shelter, materials, and resources. They are also home to many animals and other plants. Humans coexist with trees and children learn to understand their importance.

In this series we explore trees in the Australian bush, in agriculture, plantations, parks, and gardens. This provides opportunities for children to learn about the beauty of trees and ways we interact with them. Trees are often an emblem of all that is steady and solid; they project strength, security, and stillness. Songs and imaginative play about trees help children to develop their emergent understanding of these concepts and the role trees play in our lives.

Episode 1



PRESENTERS

Miranda Tapsell & Teo Gebert

PIANIST

Peter Dasent

STORY

My Mum's Special Secret

Author: Sally Morgan

Illustrator: Ambelin Kwaymullina

Publisher: Omnibus Books (Part of the Scholastic Group)

FILM

Homes For Animals

(Play School, ABC)

IDEAS FOR LATER

- Try playing a guessing game – what is this? or what am I?
- Collect some leaves for painting or a collage
- Go for a bush walk among the trees
- Sing a song and hop like a kangaroo at the same time!

SONGS

Some Trees Stand Tall

Composer: Jean McKinlay

Publisher: E.S. Wigg & Son

Put A Spot

Composer: John Fox, Warren Carr

Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Spots Are Great

Composer: Mark Barnard, Peter Dasent

Publisher: Control / Origin / ABC Music

Kookaburra Sits In The Old Gum Tree

Composer: Marion Sinclair

Publisher: Larrikin Music

Give Me A Home Among The Gumtrees

Composer: Wally Johnson, Bob Brown

Publisher: Mushroom

Walking In The Bush

Composer: Tony Strutton

Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Inanay

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Who Can?

Composer: Bob Randall

Publisher: Daki Budtcha

MAKE AND DO



How to Make a Leaf Painting Collage

You will need:

- Some dried leaves that have fallen from a tree (big, wider ones are best)
- Paint, white and colours of your choice
- A slim paintbrush
- Paper and paste (if you also want to make a collage with the painted leaves)

Take the leaves and use the paintbrush to paint spotty, stripy, or wiggly patterns on the dry leaves. Stick to one or two colours on each leaf, but you can try different colours on different leaves.

Once you've painted the leaves you could paste them on a piece of paper for a collage. Use your imagination to arrange the leaves-like a tree, or in a pattern, it's up to you. They look beautiful.

How to Play the Guessing Game

You will need:

- A friend, or two, to play with
- Some objects to guess (a branch from a tree, a piece of fruit, a toy, some clothing, etc.)
- A bath towel to cover them

The idea behind this game is for you to see if your friends can guess what the object is by just feeling it. They cannot see the object as it is hidden under the towel.

Take one object at a time, hide it under the towel. Invite your friend to put their hands under the towel too. No peeking! They should feel the object and take a guess at what it is.

This can be fun if you choose objects that are spikey (e.g. tree branch) or soft (e.g. flower petals) or a strange shape (e.g. egg whisk).

Episode 2



PRESENTERS

Emma Palmer & Alex Papps

PIANIST

Peter Dasent

TOLD STORY

Carmen And The Sock Tree

(A story told by the Play School team)

FILM

Picking Fruit
(Play School, ABC)

IDEAS FOR LATER

- Do some digging (with your parents permission of course)
- Go for a bush walk among Mangrove trees (if you live near the coast) and see if you can spot any crabs.
- Help a grown up water their pot plants
- Sing "Row, row, row your boat" with a parent or friend and do actions to pretend you are in the boat!

SONGS

Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Would You Like To Be A Tree

Composer: Peter Casey &

Carissa Campbell

Publisher: Unpublished

Caribbean Song

Composer: Angela Moore &

Peter Dasent

Publisher: Control/ Origin & ABC Music Publishing

Munch An Apple

Composer: Sophie Emtage &

Peter Dasent

Publisher: Control & Origin

Two Little Apples

Composer: Paula L Zajan

Publisher: EMI Music

Down In The Valley

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

I'm Not Afraid

Composer: John Shortis

Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

MAKE AND DO



How to Make a Sand Box Garden

You will need:

- A large shallow, tray or box.
- Branches, flowers, leaves
- Blue cellophane or blue paper
- Sand
- A gardener's fork (although a regular fork will do if you don't have one)

Put the sand in the tray. Use the fork to rake the sand and make it even first.

Now you can dig a little hole. Scrunch up the blue cellophane (or paper) and make a pond.

Use the branches and plant them like trees.

Decorate your sand tray with flowers and leaves. Now you have your own little garden.

Episode 3



PRESENTERS

Miranda Tapsell & Alex Papps

PIANIST

Peter Dasent

TOLD STORY

Maurice's Mangrove Exploration Walk

A told story by the Play School team

FILM

Kayak Trip
(Play School, ABC)

IDEAS FOR LATER

- Pretend to be a tree! It's easy, but what happens if there is a storm?
- Play in a sand pit, or make your own sand tray for play.
- Try making a bowl out of a big leaf

SONGS

Dig Dig Dig

Composer: Julian Gough, Monica Trapaga & David Basden

Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Rain

Composer: Jay Laga'aia

Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

What Can We Do While We're Waiting

Composer: Sophie Emtage & Peter Dasent

Publisher: Control & Origin

Row Row Row Your Boat

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Let's Go Walking

Composer: Satis Coleman & Alice Thorn

Publisher: The Willis Music Co
C/o Campbell Connelly

All The Colours of The Rainbow

Composer: Colin Buchanan & Keith Robert

Publisher: Rondor

MAKE AND DO



How to Make Sox Monster

You will need:

- An empty laundry basket
- A collection of socks. At least 10 pairs

Make the sock monster by threading socks through the holes on the side of the laundry basket. Make it look very...umm...socky.

Now you can play with the sock monster. If you are on your own see if you can throw socks into the sock monster. If you have a friend sit in the sock monster and see if you can catch the socks your friend throws. Alternatively climb under, with the sock monster on top (like a snail's house) and crawl around trying to find more socks

How to conduct a colour experiment

You will need:

- A grown up to supervise
- 6 bowls
- A roll of paper towel
- Plastic gloves
- Yellow, red and blue food colouring
- A little water in three of the bowls

In this experiment you can see what happens when you mix together colours. The three colours chosen are yellow, red and blue; these are known as primary colours and we can use them to make other colours.

Put 3 drops of food colouring in the water in each of the three bowls, make one red, one yellow and one blue.

Now use the paper towel. Scrunch it up and let it soak up some of the colours water. Do the following:

1. Put a piece with blue and a piece with yellow in one of the clean bowls – wait a few minutes and see what colour you get?
2. Put a piece with blue and a piece with red in another of the clean bowls – what colour you get?
3. Put a piece with yellow and a piece with red in another of the clean bowls – what colour you get?

You can also try your own variations on this colour mixing, with black food colouring, or with different strengths of colour. What does that do?

Episode 4



PRESENTERS

Michelle Lim Davidson & Teo Gebert

PIANIST

Peter Dasent

STORY

A House Of Her Own

Written by Jenny Hughes, illustrated by Jonathan Bentley
Publisher: Little Hare Books

FILM

Timber Mill

(Play School, ABC)

IDEAS FOR LATER

- Look at the different types of 'bonsai' trees in a book or in pictures on the web
- See if you can find a tree with pine needles in a garden, or a park.
- Try this tongue twister: "The perfect pine needle painting on paper". Say it 5 times, very fast.

SONGS

Sometimes I Am Very Small

Composer: Ethel Hedley
Publisher: James Nisbet & Co Ltd

Green Green

Composer: Traditional
Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Here We Go Looby Loo

Composer: Traditional
Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

The Mixing Song

Composer: Arthur Baysting & Peter Dasent
Publisher: Origin & ABC Music Publishing

The Paper Song

Composer: Judy Whitfield & Paul Reade
Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Here's A House

Composer: John Fox & Warren Carr
Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

The Green Grass Grew All Around

Composer: Traditional
Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Move Over And Make Room

Composer: Traditional
Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

MAKE AND DO



How to Make a Pine Needle Painting

You will need:

- Some pine needles on branches
- Paint
- Paper

The pine needles can be used to paint instead of paint brushes. You can use a single needle for a very thin line, or a branch of needles for a stripey, scratchy effect.

Dip the needles into the paint and paint away on the paper.

You can try painting anything this way, but you might like to try stick to one or two colours only (don't mix the colours on the pine needles). Pine needles are good for painting trees. What else do you think it might be good for?



How to Make Recycled Paper

You will need:

- Lots of scrap paper
- A tub or large bowl
- A jug of water
- A paper mould (or an old flyscreen)
- A piece of wood
- A sponge

Paper is made from wood pulp – mashed up trees. We can also make paper from old paper. This is called recycled paper.

Take the old paper and rip it up in to tiny little pieces.

Soak the paper pieces in the tub with water. Leave it to soak for a few hours, or overnight.

Now take the soaked paper (you can add a little extra new paper pieces for additional texture) and pour the mixture onto the paper mould. Let all the water run off.

Use the wooden block to push down on the mould and squeeze out the water. Then use the sponge to do the same and soak up any excess water.

Now you should be able to remove the new, recycled paper to dry. You may need to leave it a while to dry if it doesn't come away from the mould easily. Dry it on a flat surface for a while and then hang it to dry more completely.

Episode 5



PRESENTERS

Emma Palmer & Teo Gebert

PIANIST

Peter Dasent

STORY

Have You Seen Elephant?

Author and Illustrator: David Barrow
Publisher: Gecko Press

FILM

Playing In A Tree

(Play School, ABC)

IDEAS FOR LATER

- Play hide and seek outside in a park or garden
- Pretend to be a panda, or an elephant
- Help with the gardening and look after some trees
- Race some seed pods, or leaves, in water after rain (or in the sink or bath!)

SONGS

What Shall We Do

Composer: Mark Barnard & Peter Dasent
Publisher: Control, Origin & ABC Music Publishing

Would You Like To Be A Tree

Composer: Peter Casey & Carissa Campbell
Publisher: Unpublished
APRA & AMCOS Registered

Roly Poly

Composer: Angela Moore & Peter Dasent
Publisher: Control, Origin & ABC Music Publishing

The Dino Stomp

Composer: Judith Simpson & Max Lambert
Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Peek-A-Boo

Composer: Traditional
Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

Two Little Boats

Composer: Traditional
Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

MAKE AND DO



How to Dress Up Like a Panda

You will need:

- A warm and snuggly dressing gown (white or black if possible)
- A small pillow
- A black tie on nose or black face paint
- A headband
- Two black socks
- Two, ear-shaped, sponges
- Sticky tape

Put on the dressing gown and put the pillow inside the gown to give you a round tummy. Tie the dressing gown belt around your waist and the pillow, to hold it in.

Put the socks over the ends of the head band and pull up to meet in the centre. Place the sponge pieces (or small sock balls, etc.) inside the black socks on the headband to make two ears. Tape the black socks together with sticky tape and wind the tape around where the ears are on the head band, to stabilise them.

Paint your nose black, or use a tie on black clown nose.

Now you are a panda, ready to romp.

If you don't have black and white, you can dress up in brown to be a brown bear; or in grey to be a koala.

What else could you dress up as?