

# BACK TO NATURE



## One, Two, Tree!

### Nature is a "Treet"

Trees come in all shapes and sizes. From tiny ones in our backyards to giants in the forests. They all have leaves (or needles) to get energy from the sun, bark on the trunk to protect them from pests, and roots underground to get water and nutrients. They supply food, produce oxygen for us to breathe, give us wood to build houses, and provide habitat for animals. **All trees are important.** Some trees have special names, like Methuselah, which is a Great Basin Bristlecone Pine Tree, estimated to be over 4,850 years old!



The NJ Forest Service has a list of trees you can purchase [here!](#) The National Wildlife Federation has a handy info sheet [on trees too.](#)

### What about that tree?

We can learn a lot about a tree just by looking at it. The leaves, fruits, and seeds tell us what species it is. If you look at the bark you can see if it is rough and bumpy or smooth and papery. Cork and cinnamon come from the bark of trees!



You can take a look inside the trunk of a tree and tell how old it is by counting the rings. Larger rings mean the tree grew a lot that year and smaller rings mean it grew less. In this

picture you can see the tree would have to be cut down to get this slice, called a cookie, but scientists have tools, called **corers**, which cut out a small section to look at but leave the tree to continue to grow.



### Go Outside

Take your notebook and write down how many different trees you see. Check your yard, your neighborhood, or a park!

How many trees do you see?  
Are there different kinds?  
Record details about each tree you see:  
shape of the leaves, details about the bark



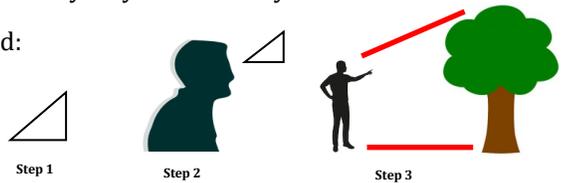
Do you see fruits or flowers on the trees?  
Do you see animals in the trees?

For extra tips check out [National Geographic](#), and share any pictures of your findings using the hashtags:  
**#casbacktonature #casnatureplay**

### How Do Trees Measure Up?

The tallest known living tree is named Hyperion, a Coast Redwood, and it measures 380.1 ft from top to bottom. Taller than the Statue of Liberty! Here's an easy way to measure your trees!

What you will need:  
A piece of paper  
Measuring tape  
Yourself



**Step 1.** Take a square piece of paper and fold it corner to corner to make a triangle.  
**Step 2.** Hold the triangle in front of your eye even with your view.  
**Step 3.** Walk back until the top of the triangle lines up with the top of the tree. Measure the distance from where you're standing to the base of the tree, then add your own height (distance + your height). You now have a good estimate of how tall the tree is!

### Pest Alert!!!

Recently the **Spotted Lanternfly** has been seen in our area. It is an invasive species and a danger to many species of trees. If you see it you are asked to take a picture and report it in [New Jersey](#) and [Pennsylvania](#). Then collect or kill the insect. Make sure you identify it correctly.



Eggs



Nymph



Nymph and adult



Adult