

# The Forest Grows

**Investigative Question-** How can we describe how the trees in the Community Forest are growing? What will my tree look like when it is mature?

## Objectives

Knowledge- Students continue to learn tree characteristics using bark and buds.

Skills- Students continue to use guides and measuring tools to identify and measure tree seedlings to maturity.

Value- Tree seedlings help regrow/rebuild a forest.

**VA Standards of Learning addressed:** Science 3.1, 3.8, 3.10. Math 3.17, 3.9. English 3.4 b & f, 3.6 e & f, 3.7b

## Materials

- Virginia Department of Forestry [Common Native Trees of Virginia](#) books
- Rulers
- Flexible tailor's tapes
- Hand lenses
- Data sheet

## Procedure

1. Engage- Ask students to recall how they planted trees in the fall and learned to identify several trees.
  - a. What are some of the characteristics you observed to ID the trees? Leaves, Bark.
  - b. The trees you planted are part of a whole forest that we want to plant to regrow the forest at Blandy. To turn the grassy areas into a forest. Trees pulling water into groundwater
  - c. Why do we want to do that? What are some creatures you have found that can benefit from this? Group students into groups of 2-3, give each a tree guide book and a data sheet, clipboard and pencil.
2. Explore- Look at the silver tag to find the scientific name and the use the index to locate the page. Ask students to use the guide book to determine the tree species.
  - a. Then use the guide book to find and record on the data sheet the height of the small seedling.
  - b. Then read to find the mature size height range, record this on data sheet.
3. Explain- Next, take a look at the big trees near the front entrance. Are some of the trees the same as your small saplings?
  - a. Can we observe any of the same characteristics (again look at bark and leaves).
  - b. Look at their mature height.
4. As time allows- On data sheet- What animals listed that depend on the tree? Under 'Values and Uses', scan to find any organisms that use the tree (key words to look for are Wildlife, Birds, Squirrels, Raccoons, mammals, turkey, deer, dens, roosts)
5. Evaluate- Bring class back together to share- out one of the other - height of the tree or the animals that use the tree.



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Researchers: \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Name		
Height of sapling/seedling	Ft	in
Height of "Mature Size" Tree	Ft	in
Who uses the tree? Scan "Values and Uses" for organisms		

What is the difference between the height of my tree now and its mature size?

Subtract

What is the height of mature tree? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the height of your sapling? \_\_\_\_\_

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