

# Arbor Day

## Teacher's Resource Guide



**Alberta**  
Environment

# Dear Teacher,

In celebration of Arbor Day, Alberta Environment provides Grade One students across Alberta with a tree seedling to take home and plant. Planting tree seedlings provides a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about plants and add more trees to Alberta's landscape. To help ensure the survival of seedlings, we provide teachers with this guide. Please share the information contained in this guide with your Grade One students. With your support and guidance, students will understand and appreciate the value of trees, and be motivated to plant their seedling. Together, you can help ensure the seedlings Grade One students plant today, are healthy and strong for many years to come.

By using this guide, your students will learn to properly care for their seedlings while covering objectives from Alberta's Grade One Science Unit, "**Needs of Animals and Plants**".

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### NOTE:

The activities in this booklet require instruction and guidance by the teacher. Some pages are meant to be photocopied for use by students.

The celebration of Arbor Day is an opportunity for Grade One students to learn about trees and the natural world, while taking positive action to make their world a better place. In the past, many Grade One students have had the satisfaction of caring for their seedlings until they become adult trees. There are many ways for you, your class, or your school to celebrate Arbor Day. This guide provides ideas to help you and your students enjoy Arbor Day.

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## TEACHER BACKGROUND:

In 1872, Mr. J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a holiday be set aside for tree planting. The idea soon spread across North America. In 1884, Canada began celebrating Arbor Day. On May 10, 1893 the Council of the North West Territories was first to officially recognize Arbor Day. At that time, school children actually had a holiday, and offices and stores were closed.

## TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

To help understand why we celebrate Arbor Day, please read "The History of Arbor Day" to the class. Encourage students to participate in Arbor Day by pretending they are a tree. Have them raise their arms and look as tall as possible each time you say the word **tree**.

## THE HISTORY OF ARBOR DAY:

Many, many years ago, a man by the name of Sterling Morton and his wife Caroline, moved from their home in Michigan to build a new house in a place called Nebraska. Michigan was a beautiful place with many **trees**. When they came to Nebraska, they were sad to find only fields of grass and no **trees**. Mr. Morton and Caroline missed **trees** so much; they decided to plant some around their house. They asked their neighbours and friends to do the same thing. Mr. Morton wanted everyone to enjoy **trees** because they are both beautiful and important. **Trees** shade our homes from the sun's heat and protect us from the strong cold winds. **Trees** provide food, homes, and shelter for birds and animals. Mr. Morton hoped everyone would set aside one day each year, just for planting **trees**. The government agreed, and they named it Arbor Day. The name Arbor is Latin for **tree**. Since then, millions of **trees** have been planted around the world.

Each of you will be given a **tree** on this special day. Plant this **tree** today and you will keep Sterling Morton's dream alive. You need to take good care of your **tree** so that everyone can enjoy it for many years to come.

## TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Ask students why trees are important. Support their answers with others listed below.

1. Trees provide homes and food for birds and animals. (e.g., squirrels, beavers, bird nests, insects, woodpeckers)
2. Trees provide us shelter from wind and rain.
3. Trees give us shade and a place to play.
4. Trees make the land very beautiful.
5. Trees provide us with wood to build our homes and paper to write on.
6. Trees help provide us with the air we breathe.

# Who Uses Trees?

## TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Trees are used for many reasons. They can be used for food, to build homes for hiding, and for playing. Photocopy this page. Lead the students through this activity by following the instructions below. See how many uses for trees you can find.

### On the picture below:

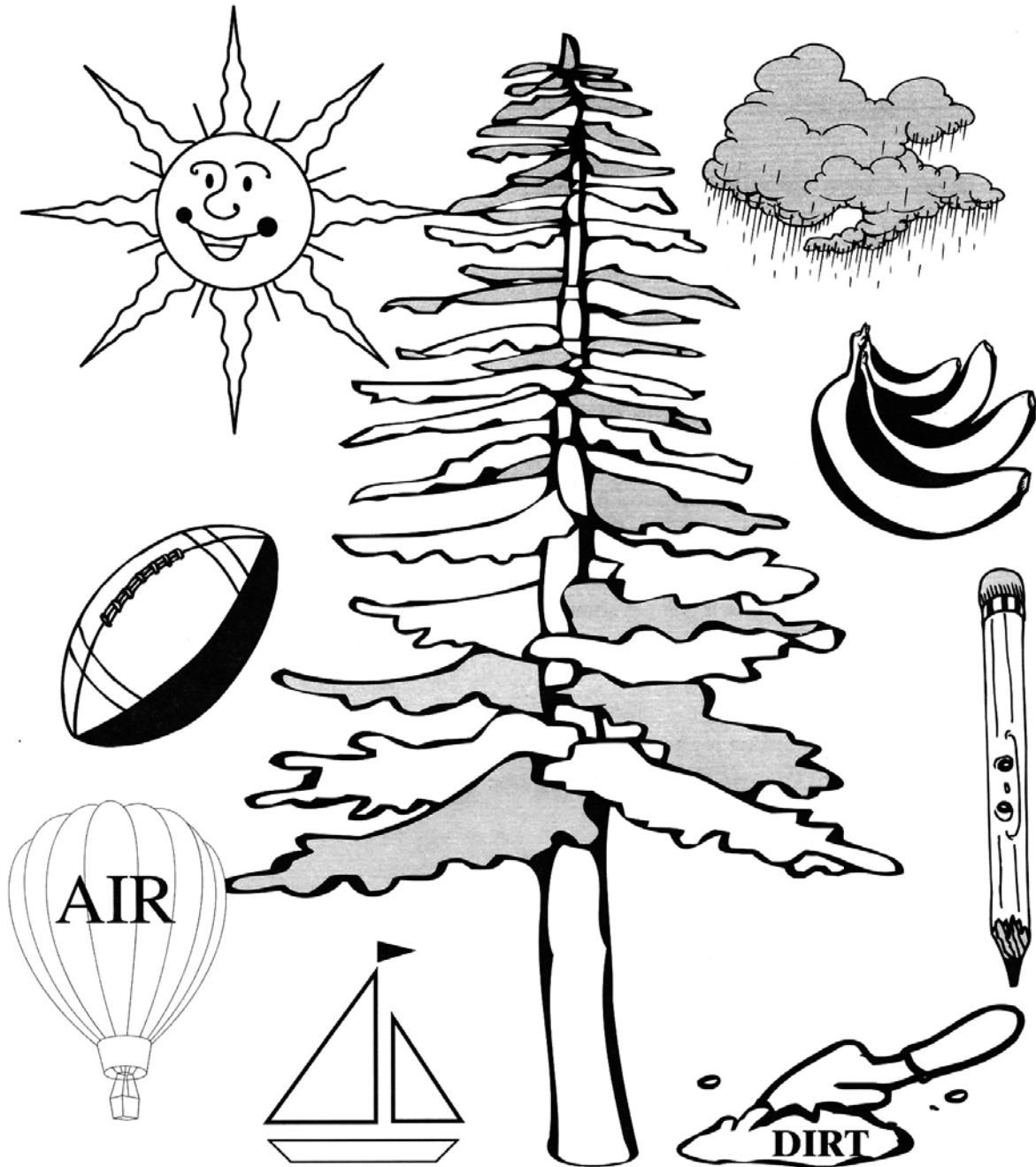
1. Put a red check mark beside the bird hiding in the tree.
2. Put a green triangle around the animals using the trees for food.
3. Put a blue square around the people using trees.
4. Put a yellow star on the insects using trees.
5. Put a brown circle around the animals that use trees for a home.



# What do Trees Need to Live?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Directions:**
- 1) Color pictures.
  - 2) Circle any items a tree needs to live.



# Planting a Tree Seedling (Class Activity)

In this activity, the teacher will lead the class through the steps involved in planting a tree seedling. This may be done inside the classroom, outside in the schoolyard, or in a nearby natural area. If you plant a tree in a pot in the classroom, the seedling can stay inside until the end of June. In July it should be planted outside. Make sure the seedling gets some full sunlight every day.

**Materials:** seedling, small shovel or spade, water, water container, pot and dirt (if inside), a site (if outside).

## What does a tree seedling need to live?

**Discussion:** Review with student the things a seedling needs to survive.

*Water, air, dirt, sunlight.*



## Where should a seedling be planted?

**Discussion:** What makes a good planting site for a seedling?

- An adult tree needs to have space all around it. Do not plant seedlings too close to a building or sidewalk. Do not plant seedlings under overhead wires.
- Seedlings cannot be put in a place that is saturated with water.
- The seedling needs a place where it will receive some sun every day.
- The seedling must be planted in healthy soil (not in gravel or hard, compacted soil).

**Activity:**

- Go on a tour outside to identify good and poor planting sites. Have students explain why a site is good or bad. Choose a site to plant the seedling.

## How to plant a seedling?

**Activity:**

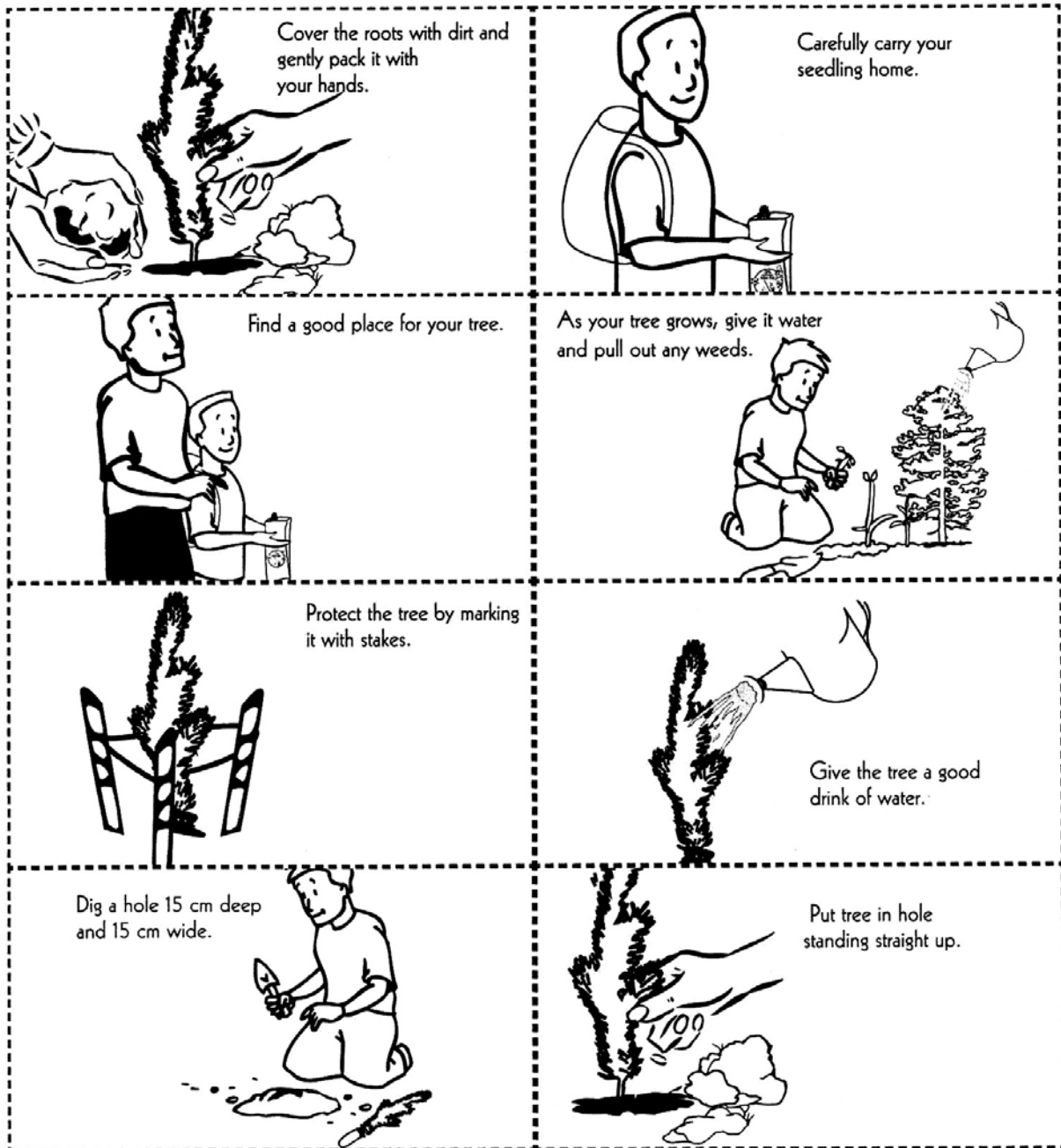
- With the class, go through the tree planting stages found on the back of the seedling bag or in this booklet.

*Have students complete the following page to reinforce the material from this activity.*

# Planting Your Tree Seedling

## Directions:

- 1) Color the pictures.
- 2) Cut out each of the boxes.
- 3) Put the boxes in order starting with taking your tree home.
- 4) Glue the boxes onto construction paper in the correct order.



## RESOURCE LIST:

Arbor Day is celebrated throughout the world. There are many sources of information about this important day. Contact the following organizations for information to help you celebrate Arbor Day.

### **Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development**

- Information Centre. Phone: 1-877-944-0313  
Main Floor, Great West Life Building 9920-108 Street NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2M4
- Website: <http://aep.alberta.ca/about-us/education-resources/default.aspx>
- Email: [ESRD.Info-Centre@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ESRD.Info-Centre@gov.ab.ca)

#### Resources Available:

- *Arbor Day Teacher's Guide*
- *Guide to the Common Native Trees and Shrubs of Alberta*
- <http://aep.alberta.ca/lands-forests/land-industrial/programs-and-services/pesticide-management/pesticide-use/documents/CommonNativeTreesShrubsAlberta-Guide.pdf>
- *Native Trees of Alberta Poster*
- *Seedlings during May*

### **Inside Education Toll Free: 1-888-421-1497**

- 11428 - 100 Ave. Edmonton, AB. Phone (780) 421-1497
- Website: <http://www.insideeducation.ca>
  - *Alberta Tree Identification Guide*

### **Internet Websites:**

#### **National Forest Week:**

- <http://canadianforestry.com/wp/national-forest-week/>

#### **Tree Canada:**

- [www.treecanada.ca](http://www.treecanada.ca)

#### **The U.S. National Arbor Day Foundation:**

- [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

### **Local Parks and Recreation Department**

### **Local Nurseries**

### **Natural History Museums**

### **Nature Centers**