

# Standing Tall at Cheekwood: Tree Exploration

Howe Garden and surrounding areas – 60 minutes

## About

This field trip is to guide students through the basic knowledge of trees. This includes learning about the parts of a tree, reading a book about trees as homes to animals, and completing an art activity that uses the different parts of the tree and represents seasonality.

## Objectives

1. Students will learn about the different parts of the tree.
2. Students will learn about different animals that use trees as homes.
3. Students will learn about trees through the seasons and how they change.

## History of the Howe Garden

In the winter of 1968, the Howe Garden was the first modern garden to be developed at Cheekwood, decades after the original landscape was installed on the estate. With the introduction of the Howe Garden, the scope of Cheekwood was expanded and enriched, most notably with the addition of a native wildflower collection.

## Vocabulary

Root – A root is a part of a plant that is usually hidden underground. Roots have several purposes. They hold the plant in the ground and keep it upright. They take in water and nutrients from the soil.

Trunk – The main stem of a tree, supports the tree and carries water and food to other parts of the tree.

Branch – A natural division of a tree's trunk, extending off the trunk. A branch supports the leaves, fruits, and flowers.

Twig – A small shoot or branch usually without its leaves.

Crown – The upper part of the tree which contains the branches, leaves, and reproductive structures (flowers, seeds, fruits, etc.).

Fruit – A fruit is the part of a flowering plant that contains the seeds. A fruit develops from a plant's flowers. The skin of a fruit may be thin, tough, or hard. The insides can be sweet and juicy, or they may be dry.

Leaf – A leaf is one of the usually green, flat parts of a plant or tree. A leaf grows from the stem or branch that helps the plant turn sunlight into food.

Flower – A flower is the part of a plant that has petals and that makes fruits or seeds.

Seed – A seed grows into a plant when given soil, water, sunlight, nutrients, and air.

## Standards Covered

### PK.AL.SR.5

1. Maintain focus appropriate to completing a task and/or learning activity.

### PK.AL.CO.11

1. Ask and respond to questions with peers and adults in individual and group activities.

### PK.ESS3.01A

1. Observe, describe, and compare the habitats of plants and animals.

### PK.ESS2.01A.

1. Investigate and identify a variety of Earth materials by their observable properties (e.g. soil, rocks, sand, water).
- 2.b. Observe and discuss changes in weather and seasons using common weather-related vocabulary (e.g., rain, sun, snow, wind, spring, summer, fall/autumn, winter, etc.).

### PK.PD.5.

- a. Experiment with handheld tools to develop strength, control, and dexterity of small muscles (e.g., paintbrushes, crayons, markers, lacing, clay, etc.).

### PK.PD.6.

- a. Explore and engage in activities which enhance hand-eye coordination (e.g., building with blocks, creating with clay, putting puzzles together, and using other manipulatives).

## Pre-Visit

For the pre-visit, there will be a virtual meeting that will happen between a Cheekwood staff member and the class. There will be a PowerPoint that is shared about Cheekwood's history and a brief introduction on what the students will be learning about during their Cheekwood visit. Specifically, there will be information on the parts of a tree, a brief introduction to what an arboretum is, and the study of trees.

## Overview of the Day

1. Students will start off at the Frist Learning Center where they will unload from the bus and be greeted by a Cheekwood educator. The educator will give an overview of the guidelines students should follow while at the garden and briefly review the material covered during the pre-visit activity.
2. Teachers will already have students preassigned to 3 different groups. One educator will be placed with each group and remain with that group the entire time. (Groups will be ~20 students each)
3. The educators will be preassigned to one of the stations listed below, each starting at a different one. Each activity will last approximately 15 minutes with 5 minutes allotted for transitions between stations.
4. Parts of a Tree (15 minutes)
5. At this station, students will learn about each part of the tree in more depth. They will learn about where each part is located on the tree. Students will use their senses to investigate the parts of a tree in order to analyze the purpose and function of each part.
6. Trees as Homes (15 minutes)
7. This station explores the various animals and insects that call trees their home. Students will listen to a book that explores trees as habitats. After listening to the story and identifying some of the animals and insects in it, they will each use binoculars to try and locate the animals and insects that call the trees here at Cheekwood home.
8. Trees through the Seasons (15 minutes)
9. At this station, students will learn about trees changing through the seasons. They will view pictures of a tree in each season and compare the differences between each. Students will complete an art activity inspired by the parts of a tree as they change throughout the year.

## Post-Visit

The post visit for this field trip includes Cheekwood Education staff coming out to the school and planting a native tree at the school. Each student on this field trip will receive a grade appropriate book about trees.

## Post-Visit Book Suggestions

[Apple and Magnolia](#) by Laura Gehl and Patricia Metola

[Be a Tree](#) by Maria Gianferrari and Felicia Sala

[When the Sakura Bloom](#) by Narisa Togo

[A Tree is Nice](#) by Janice May Udry and Marc Simont

