

# Tree Health Check-Up

## Materials

- Pen or pencil (colored pencils or crayons optional)
- Clipboard or other hard writing surface
- This worksheet

## Brainstorm

What do trees need to grow and be healthy?  
How are those similar to what humans need?  
What signs might you see in trees that show that they are healthy or unhealthy?

## Observe

Look at the leaves or needles of the tree:



- Are the leaves **wilted** or dry, or have spots or holes?
- Are the leaves yellow or brown?  
NOTE: Brown leaves and dry edges may be normal during the fall, especially for trees that lose their leaves seasonally (called **deciduous**).

Draw pictures of some of the leaves or needles you see.

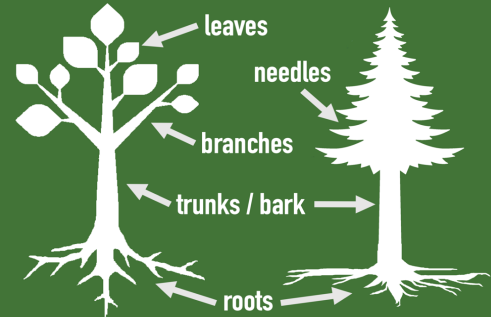
Look at the bark, branches and trunk:



- Do you see damaged, broken or dead branches?
- Are there places where insects, birds or other animals have chewed or scratched the bark?
- Is there damage from humans, like a lawn mower running into the trunk (or over the roots)?

Draw a picture of the trunk or branches, especially if there is evidence of damage.

Just like people can be healthy or sick, so can trees! Experts who study trees (called **arborists**) look for symptoms in trees to determine whether they are healthy or not. You can look for some of these indicators in a tree near you!



## Vocabulary:

- arborist** – also called a tree surgeon, a professional who studies and takes care of trees
- wilted** - when a plant, leaf, or flower becomes limp through heat, loss of water, or disease
- deciduous** – a tree or shrub that sheds its leaves every year

## Look at the space around the tree:



- Does the tree have enough room, or is it too close to buildings, pavement, other trees, or power lines?
- Does the tree have access to sunlight?
- Does the soil seem either too dry or too wet? (Either extreme may be bad for some trees.)

Use the area below to write notes about the space around the tree or draw a picture of the tree in its environment.

## **Extend the Learning:**

- Trees help store carbon and provide habitats for many different animals and insects. Visit the other science journeys in the Trees Family Guide to learn more, [observer.globe.gov/trees-family-guide](https://observer.globe.gov/trees-family-guide).
- Soil is a very important for all plants, including trees. You may enjoy the Elementary GLOBE book, “The Scoop on Soils” to dig into that topic more, [www.globe.gov/web/elementary-globe/overview/soils](https://www.globe.gov/web/elementary-globe/overview/soils).



Download the GLOBE Observer app to share your observations of trees with a global community of citizen scientists. You can add comments about tree health as part of your observations, in the Field Notes section.



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