



Texas Nature Challenge

Tree Time

Date: _____

Location: _____

Choose a tree in your yard or neighborhood. That way you can watch it over the season. Describe or sketch these different tree characteristics at different times to see how your tree changes.

Shape

Which is your tree most like?

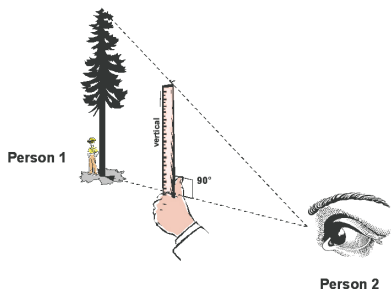
Don't see a match?
Sketch your shape here:



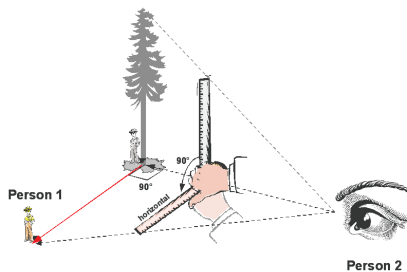
Size

How big is your tree? Compare it to the height of another object like a light pole or building.

Measure your tree by using this simple method:



1. Person 1 stands near the trunk of the tree. Person 2 stands far enough away to see both Person 1 and the top of the tree.
2. Person 2 holds a ruler (or pencil) upright at arm's length and (carefully!) walks forward or backward until the entire length of their ruler covers the tree from base to top.
3. Still holding the ruler at arm's length, Person 2 turns their wrist right or left so that the ruler is now horizontal, with one end even with the base of the tree.



4. Have Person 1 move away from the trunk in the direction the ruler is pointed (at a 90 degree angle) until they are standing where the end of the ruler points.
5. Person 1 is now standing roughly the same distance from the trunk as the tree is tall. Use a tape measure to record this distance, in feet.

My tree is about _____ feet tall!

Tree Time

Bark

Look for patterns, color, and texture.

Leaves

Look at color, shape, size, movement.

Branches

How are they organized, what patterns can you see?

About how many leaves are on your tree?

Count the leaves on a typical branch _____

Count the branches on your tree _____

Now multiply these 2 numbers together _____

Insects, Birds or Animals

What evidence do you see that other life is on or using the tree?