

# LIFE OF A TREE ENACTMENT

**Objective:** Students will act out the life cycle of a tree.

**Illinois State Goals: 12. E.**

**Top Book Hits:**

The Life Cycle of a Tree by Bobbie Kalman; **ISBN-13:** 978-0778706892

The Tree Farmer by Chuck Leavell and Nicholas Cravotta **ISBN-13:** 978-1893622166

**Materials Needed:** Teacher instructions

- Large area for student activity

**Procedure:**

Ask students to imitate your movements as you enact the life of a tree. (Elaborate/add to these actions as you wish.)



1. Curl up in a tight ball – you are a seed.
2. Uncurl and kneel—you’ve sprouted.
3. Stick up one arm (fist clenched) – you’ve grown a branch.
4. Stick up the other arm—you’ve grown another branch.
5. Wiggle your fingers – you’ve grown a lot of leaves to make your food.
6. Stand up (feet together)—you grow tall.
7. Spread your feet apart – you’ve grown a lot of roots to bring you water and minerals.
8. Wiggle your toes—you grow lots of little roots.
9. Start scratching all over—you’re attacked by insects and fungi.
10. Sway slowly then more and more—a storm goes by.
11. Make a loud noise (kchhhh!) – you get hit by lightning and lose a limb.
12. Smile and sigh (ahhhh!)—you become a home for wildlife in your old age.
13. Make a hammering noise (knock, knock, knock) and vibrate—woodpeckers peck into your dead wood.
14. Make a creaking sound and fall down—you blow down in a storm.
15. Stick up one arm—a new seed sprouts from your rotting wood.

**Grow Further:** An extension would be to take the students on a walk and try to find trees at various stages of their lives. Dr. Arbor Talks Trees <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/tree3/01.html>