

Activity about trees for Arizona Museum for Youth, 2008

Trees have ‘personality’

Shape: Each tree has its own shape that is individual and recognizable.

Colors: Observe the colors of trees. Look very, very closely, so closely that you see only one color in a rainbow of possible colors.

Texture: The trunk and leaves of trees can vary widely from smooth to coarse to prickly. Look at trees to determine what the texture might feel like. Be careful, some parts of some trees can give you splinters.

Mood: Look at a tree or a photo of a tree and try to feel the ‘mood’ or personality of the branches. Try to imitate this feeling while you draw it.

All trees have four elements: roots, a trunk, branches and leaves or needles

Draw your tree: pick one of each element and put them together on the page of paper. Tell a story about your tree. What is its ‘mood?’

Print a digital photo of a tree and draw over it. Be sure to pay close attention to the way in which your hand moves as it traces the shapes of the trunk, branches and leaves.

Arbor Day is a tree-planting holiday. The third Friday in March is when we celebrate Arbor Day in Arizona. The first official Arbor Day was held in Nebraska in 1874. *Arbor* is defined as a leafy, shady recess formed by tree branches or shrubs.

Learn more about trees at:

<http://www.arborday.org/learn/>



Arizona's State Tree is the Yellow Palo Verde



The National tree is the oak. This is a white oak.

Oak is valued for its diversity, with more than 60 species growing in the United States. Throughout America's history, oaks have been prized for their shade, beauty, and lumber.



Weeping willow tree



Ponderosa pine tree



A single banyan tree showing its aerial roots running from the branches to the ground.



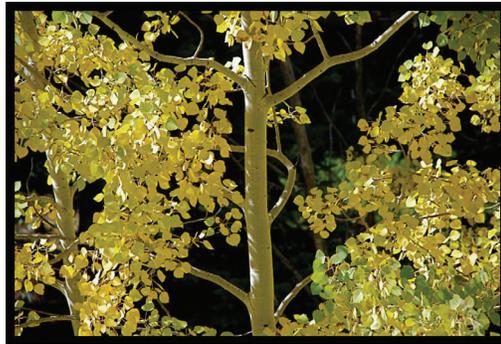
Baobab trees in Tanzania



A different type of Baobab tree, near Bulawayo, Zimbabwe



Aspen trees



Aspen tree in fall color



Aspen trees in snow .



Palm tree



Joshua tree

Many plants that are called trees are not actually trees by definition. They grow tall and or wide like trees and often provide shade like a tree. Examples are **Palm** trees and **Joshua** trees. Both are actually woody monocotyledons that bear fruit and flowers.

The earliest fossils presumed to be monocot remains date from the [early Cretaceous](#) period, about 70 to 140 million years ago.