



## Tu B'Shevat art project

2nd grade and up

### Goals for the Lesson/Activity

**Students will:**

- list at least five foods and products people get from trees
- articulate at least three ways in which trees positively impact our environment
- create artwork which demonstrates their understanding of the important roles trees play in our lives



### Materials needed

- Black construction paper - 4 sheets per student
- Green construction paper (different shades of green if possible) – 2 sheets per student
- Cardboard boxes to be cut-up into tree trunk shapes (1 trunk per student)
- Oil pastels
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Black markers
- Clear packing tape
- 12" Pizza wheels or round cake pads (you can buy them through Amazon for about \$20 for 100 wheels)-1 per student

**Prepare in advance for each student**

Create the cardboard tree form by:

1. Cutting out the tree trunk shape from the boxes using scissors or an exacto knife
2. Taping the trunk to the back of the pizza wheel
3. For younger students, pre-cut 7 green circles and 13 black circles of varying sizes
4. Copy the *If Trees Could Talk* attachment and cut into strips

### Description of Activities

Brainstorm a list of the foods, products and environmental benefits we get from trees. Use the page, *This Comes from a Tree?* as a reference.



## **“If Trees Could Talk”**

Based on the ideas generated, ask students to imagine what it might be like if trees could talk. What would a tree say? What advice might a tree offer? Record those answers on the board as well.

### **Creating the tree:**

1. Pass out the pre-cut black paper circles, or have students cut out their own circles. They can trace around the bottom of bottles, cups or small rolls of tape to get a circle pattern. They will need 13 circles. Using the oil pastels, draw circles inside circles (concentric circles) on the black paper. Make them irregular and colorful.
2. Pass out or create the green circles (seven per student). Invite students to fill them with phrases offering advice for making the world a better place from the perspective of the tree.  
For example: Recycle, Protect Wildlife, Stand Tall, Drink Plenty of Water, Branch Out....
3. Glue all the circles onto the pizza wheel as well as the title slip *If Trees Could Talk*.
4. Encourage students to share their trees with the class.

### **Differentiation Options**

Knowing that students learn in a variety of ways and modalities, the following options are provided to adjust the above lesson to meet the unique needs of your learners.

#### ***For learners who need more assistance***

- If needed, pre-assemble the tree with the circles.
- Download the sheet *This Comes from a Tree?*. Have students circle the fruits they like to eat and the products they use. Encourage them to copy those words onto their trees.

#### ***For learners who need extension opportunities***

- Ask students to research Jewish quotes from our tradition which highlight the importance of trees. Include those texts on the circles or write them onto the trunk of the tree.
- If your students are studying modern Hebrew, encourage them to write some of the “advice” in Hebrew.