WHAT A RE-LEAF

This lesson tracks seasonal change near your school. If your school does this project every year, and you keep records, you can track changes in the weather and keep your pulse on our climate!

THE ACTIVITY

1. Well before you expect leaves to emerge (for instance, late February), pick a few trees or a grove of trees around your school yard or neighbourhood.
2. Each day, look for signs of buds swelling and leaves emerging.
3. The day you see leaves emerge is Tree Leaf Day, the unofficial beginning of spring. Record this date (you can do this for multiple trees or groves).
4. If different classes/classrooms choose different trees, and especially different tree species, you can compare differences between locations and species this spring. Year-to-year, you can compare differences in date. Does Tree Leaf Day happen earlier or later than normal? Is there a trend?


Depending on the grade and subject you teach, Tree Leaf Day and the nature observations involved in determining when it happens can provide material for creative writing and poetry, back up math concepts, or launch science lessons. If your school commits to this project over time, you get a data set for math and science. If schools across Manitoba share their results with FortWhyte, we’ll make the data from this year available to everyone, too!

Tree Leaf Day can also serve as an excuse to celebrate! Have students decide on a meaningful way to mark the beginning of another growing summer in Manitoba.

If you are interested in sharing your project’s results, or would like more ideas on teaching outside at your school, please contact FortWhyte Alive by email at education@fortwhyte.org.