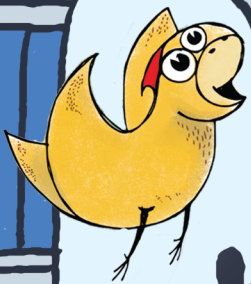




## LEVEL 2 HOME KITS

WEEK #10

THABO AND THE TREES





## **THABO AND THE TREES**

## **ACTIVITY 1**

### **LEARNING GOALS**

By the end of the WEEK, your child/ren should be able to:

- Show a sense of responsibility for the environment
- Understand the interconnectedness of all living things

### **RESOURCES**

- Notebook/Sheets of Paper
- Crayons/Markers/Pencils

### **VOCABULARY**

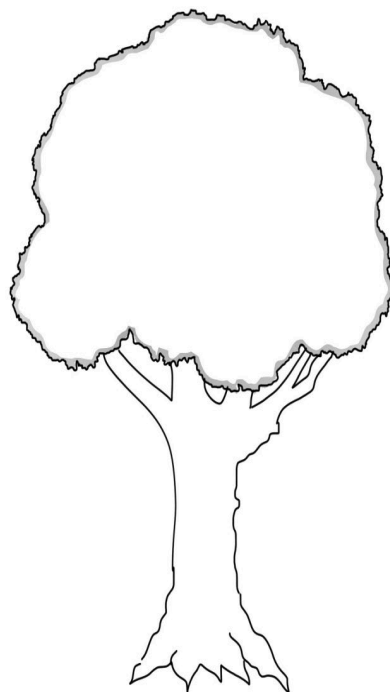
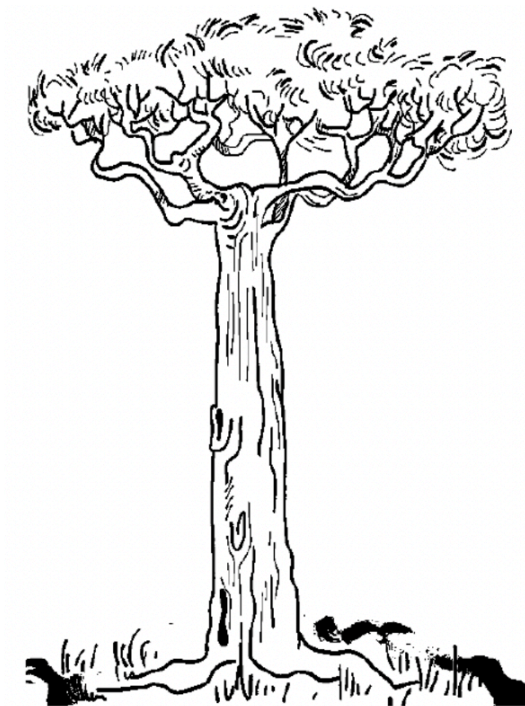
- Roots
- Trunk
- Leaves
- Branches

### **ACTIVITY**

- Talk about an animal which lives in your local area that uses a tree for a home.
- Discuss some ideas of what food trees provide. Discuss the different fruits trees produce (apples, oranges, bananas, peaches, etc.).
- Point out how the Maple tree produces sap that can produce maple syrup.
- Invite your child to start a tree book.
- If you have trees near your home, ask your child if they want to draw one. There is a tree template below (pg. 2), though you could also point out different types of trees in magazines, books, or on the internet to give your child a choice of which tree they would most like to draw.
- Point out the trunk, branches and leaves and explore the different colours and textures.
- End the activity by singing the song (below) together.

### **SONG** (to the tune of “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”)

**Trees are important, yes it's true  
They clean the air for me, and you  
Home to the animals and bearing gifts of fruit  
Held in the soil by their strong roots  
Trees provide shade and medicine  
We could never live without them**



## **THABO AND THE TREES**

## **ACTIVITY 2**

### **LEARNING GOALS**

By the end of the WEEK, your child/ren should be able to:

- Show a sense of responsibility for the environment
- Understand the interconnectedness of all living things

### **RESOURCES**

- Water
- Bowl
- Leaf
- Small stone (to keep the leaf underwater)
- Internet/Books

### **VOCABULARY**

- Roots
- Trunk
- Leaves
- Branches
- Carbon Dioxide
- Oxygen

### **ACTIVITY**

- By going outside or looking at images using the internet or books, name the parts of a tree, and identify different trees. What do they look like? Do they have leaves or needles? Is the tree trunk big and thick? Etc.
- Talk to your child about the different parts of the tree.
  - For example: “The bark protects the inside of the tree, the branches spread out the leaves, and the leaves make food for the tree. The roots firmly fix the tree in the soil, and they take water and the goodness from the soil to grow big and strong.”
- Now explain how trees are so essential to clean our air.
  - For example: “Green plants and trees use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide from the air to make food. Leaves absorb sunlight and then turn that into energy. Trees clean our air by taking in carbon dioxide and then releasing oxygen. By doing this, trees clean our air.”
- Next, invite your child to learn that a leaf is a living thing, and you will show them an experiment that will prove this!
  - First, take a bowl and put some water into it. Then take a leaf off a tree (or a plant if there are no trees close to where you live). Put the leaf in the bowl of water and place the small stone on top of it to submerge it. Now put the bowl in the sunshine and leave it in the sun for a few hours. Later, go back to the bowl to see if you can see the air bubbles on the leaf and around the bowl. Can you see them? Explain that if your child were underwater and breathed out, bubbles would come out from their mouth or nose into the water. In the same way, the leaf is releasing oxygen, which are the bubbles you can see!
- Remind your child about the importance of trees discussed in Activity 1.
- To end the activity, sing the song in Activity 1 together.

## THABO AND THE TREES

## ACTIVITY 3

### LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the WEEK, children should be able to:

- Show a sense of responsibility for the environment
- Understand the interconnectedness of all living things

### RESOURCES

- Internet/Books
- Tree Book from Activity 1
- Crayons/Markers/ Pencils

### VOCABULARY

- |         |              |              |
|---------|--------------|--------------|
| • Nest  | • Koala Bear | • Squirrels  |
| • Sloth | • Orangutan  | • Woodpecker |

### ACTIVITY

- Start the activity by reviewing what you have learnt so far. Ask your child if they remember how plants clean our air. Who does a tree provide a home for? What fruits do trees provide? What are the parts of a tree called?
- Tell your child you will learn about different animals living in a tree. If possible, use the internet to investigate the different animals named in the vocabulary list (above), and discuss how they use a tree as their home. What do the animals look like? Do they have fur or feathers? Which country do they live in? What does the animal eat?
- Now focus on your local area and investigate which animals use a tree for their home near where you live. Invite your child to go on a walk to see if you can spot any animals and birds living in the trees (*If there aren't trees in your local area, you could use the internet to discover animals or birds that use trees as homes in your country*).
- Afterwards, invite your child to draw a picture of their favourite animal that lives in a tree. This can be included in the tree book made in Activity 1.
- End the activity by asking your child why they think trees are important.

## THABO AND THE TREES

## ACTIVITY 4

### LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the WEEK, your child/ren should be able to:

- Show a sense of responsibility for the environment
- Understand the interconnectedness of all living things

### RESOURCES

- Tree Book from Activity 1

### VOCABULARY

- |            |                  |              |
|------------|------------------|--------------|
| • Roots    | • Carbon Dioxide | • Orangutan  |
| • Trunk    | • Oxygen         | • Squirrels  |
| • Leaves   | • Sloth          | • Woodpecker |
| • Branches | • Koala Bear     |              |

### ACTIVITY

- Invite your child to give a presentation to other family members and siblings and speak about what they have been learning about the importance of trees in the activities so far.
  - To plan the presentation, remind your child of everything you have done together in the different activities and what you have discussed.
  - Ask them if they would like to include the drawings they made in Activity 1 and 3 from their tree book.
  - Suggest that they could talk about the leaf experiment and the different animals that live in trees around the world or in their local area.
- Then, invite your family and siblings to the presentation! You could end the presentation by singing the song from Activity 1 together with the family.
- Let your child know you are proud of them and share something you particularly liked about their presentation.
  - For example: "I loved to see you so excited when you told everyone about the animals that live in a tree. You did a great job explaining the different reasons why trees are important to us. Well done!"

# THABO AND THE TREES

## ACTIVITY 5

### LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the WEEK, children should be able to:

- Show a sense of responsibility for the environment
- Understand the interconnectedness of all living things

### RESOURCES

- Soil
- Tree of your choice
- Water
- Shovel
- Pot (if necessary)

### VOCABULARY

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| • Roots  | • Branches |
| • Trunk  | • Soil     |
| • Leaves | • Worried  |

### ACTIVITY

- Speak gently to your child about trees being cut down and used for different things, such as for furniture or paper to be made. Discuss the repercussions of chopping down trees, including the animals you have learnt about in the activities not having a home. Then, make suggestions of what you could do to help.
  - For example: “We may need wood to make furniture or build homes, but if too many trees are chopped down, they can't clean our air or provide a home for the animals. What can we do so trees continue growing and provide a home for all the animals? We could help by planting more trees so that they continue to grow.”
- Now, invite the family to plant a tree in your garden (if possible), in a pot, or as part of a community project. Share your ideas of which tree you would like to plant and why.
- End the activity by talking to your child about the importance of trees and discuss what you did as a family to make a difference. If your child is motivated by this topic and wishes to do more, you could continue to look for projects in your local area where you can help and show your support for trees and the environment.



