17 SHEETS

ARBOR DAY READING + WRITING

GRADES 1-3

5 Passages + Tree Rings

My name _____ Date _____

Count the rings. Write the number.

Tree Rings



Each ring is one year of growth.



Tree A



Tree B

Tree A has _____ rings. It was _____ years old.

Tree B has _____ rings. It was _____ years old.

Circle the older tree: (A) (B)

I know because _____

My name _____ Date _____

Read. Then highlight the proof.

1 What Is Arbor Day?

● Shorter passage

[1]Arbor Day is a day for planting trees. [2]The word arbor means tree. [3]On this day, people plant new trees and take care of old ones. [4]Schools, towns, and families all join in. [5]Children often plant a small tree at their school. [6]In the United States, the national Arbor Day is on the last Friday in April. [7]Some states pick a different day that fits their weather. [8]It is a good day to learn about trees and to thank them. [9]A young tree can grow for many, many years.



Highlight it! Find the sentence that tells which day is the national Arbor Day.

Sentence number _____

Terms of Use

Please read before you print your first page.

One classroom license

- This file is for one classroom: one teacher, one group of students.
- Please do not share it, post it online, or sell it.
- Extra licenses for a team or a school are available on the product page.

This is a fillable PDF

- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line, type, and Save As.
- The name and date on every student page, the answer lines, the tally boxes, the tracker and every notes area are type-in fields. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- Highlighting is done on paper: print the passage page and highlight or underline, or type the sentence number on the line.
- It works offline: no account, no subscription, no internet needed.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the passages stay big enough to read. Pages print in color or in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker carries a student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page first. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

© Bright Path Sped. For single-classroom use by the original purchaser.

PREVIEW

Passages at a Glance

5 passages, 3 shorter and 2 longer, all on Arbor Day and on trees.

All five passages

#	Passage	Level	Lines	Words	Pages
1	What Is Arbor Day?	Shorter passage	9	89	6, 7
2	Why Trees Matter	Shorter passage	9	78	8, 9
3	How to Plant a Tree	Shorter passage	9	92	10, 11
4	How Arbor Day Began	Longer passage	12	130	12, 13
5	Inside a Tree: Parts and Rings	Longer passage	12	133	14, 15

"Lines" is the number of numbered sentences and "Words" the number of words, for a reading-rate check if you want one.

A routine that fits twenty minutes

- Teach the six words on the Word Match page.
- Read the passage aloud together, then once alone.
- Highlight the proof sentence for the prompt on the passage page.
- Turn the page and answer the five questions. Go back to the text for any answer.
- Check with the key. Color a box on the tracker.

Say it this way

- "Put your finger on the sentence that tells you."
- "What number is that sentence? Say it, then write it."
- "Read the question again. Which choice matches the text?"

Ways to adjust a page

- Read the passage aloud first, then have the child read it back.
- Let the child say an answer while you write it, or point to the sentence that proves it.
- Cover the later questions and do one at a time.
- For more of a challenge, ask for the proof sentence number on every question: the key lists it.
- Use the Ask 10 People page before reading, then talk about what the passages say about planting trees.

PREVIEW

Preview · Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter.



Tree Words

1	arbor		A the thick middle part of a tree
2	shade		B the word for a tree
3	oxygen		C the outside covering of a tree trunk
4	trunk		D circles inside a tree that show how many years it grew
5	bark		E a cool, dark place made when something blocks the sun
6	rings		F the air that people need to breathe

+ Pick one word. Use it in a sentence.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.

1 What Is Arbor Day?



1. What does the word arbor mean?

- ○ a. tree
- ○ b. day
- ○ c. garden

2. What do people do on Arbor Day?

- ○ a. They fly kites.
- ○ b. They plant trees.
- ○ c. They go fishing.

3. When is the national Arbor Day in the United States? Write the answer.

_____

_____

4. Why do some states pick a different day?

- ○ a. They have no schools.
- ○ b. They do not like trees.
- ○ c. Their weather is different.

5. Who joins in on Arbor Day? Write the answer.

_____

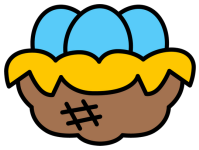
_____

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.



2 Why Trees Matter

1. What does a tree give on a hot, sunny day?

- ○ a. shade
- ○ b. snow
- ○ c. sand

2. Where do birds build nests? Write the answer.

_____

_____

3. What do trees give off that people need to breathe?

- ○ a. smoke
- ○ b. dust
- ○ c. oxygen

4. What do roots do?

- ○ a. They make fruit.
- ○ b. They hold the soil in place.
- ○ c. They give shade.

5. Name one thing we make from wood. Write the answer.

_____

_____

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.

3 How to Plant a Tree



1. What is the first step?

- ○ a. Water the tree.
- ○ b. Pick a good spot.
- ○ c. Spread wood chips.

2. What kind of hole do you dig?

- ○ a. a very deep and narrow hole
- ○ b. a tiny hole
- ○ c. a wide hole that is not too deep

3. What do you do after you set the tree in the hole? Write the answer.

_____

_____

4. Why spread wood chips around the tree?

- ○ a. to help the soil stay wet
- ○ b. to scare birds
- ○ c. to make shade

5. Who can help you plant a tree? Write the answer.

_____

_____

PREVIEW

Preview · Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.

4 How Arbor Day Began



1. Who asked the people of Nebraska to plant trees?

- ○ a. J. Sterling Morton
- ○ b. Johnny Appleseed
- ○ c. Abraham Lincoln

2. What was the land like around Morton's home?

- ○ a. It was covered in forest.
- ○ b. It had few trees.
- ○ c. It was under water.

3. When was the first Arbor Day? Write the answer.

_____

_____

4. What did Morton ask people to do?

- ○ a. Cut down trees.
- ○ b. Build a new town.
- ○ c. Set aside one day for planting trees.

5. What happened after the idea spread to other states? Write the answer.

_____

_____

PREVIEW

Preview · Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.

5 Inside a Tree: Parts and Rings



1. What do roots take in from the ground?

- ○ a. water
- ○ b. fruit
- ○ c. shade

2. What covers the trunk like a coat?

- ○ a. leaves
- ○ b. bark
- ○ c. roots

3. What does each ring show? Write the answer.

_____

_____

4. How old was a tree with ten rings?

- ○ a. five years old
- ○ b. twenty years old
- ○ c. ten years old

5. What might a thin ring mean? Write the answer.

_____

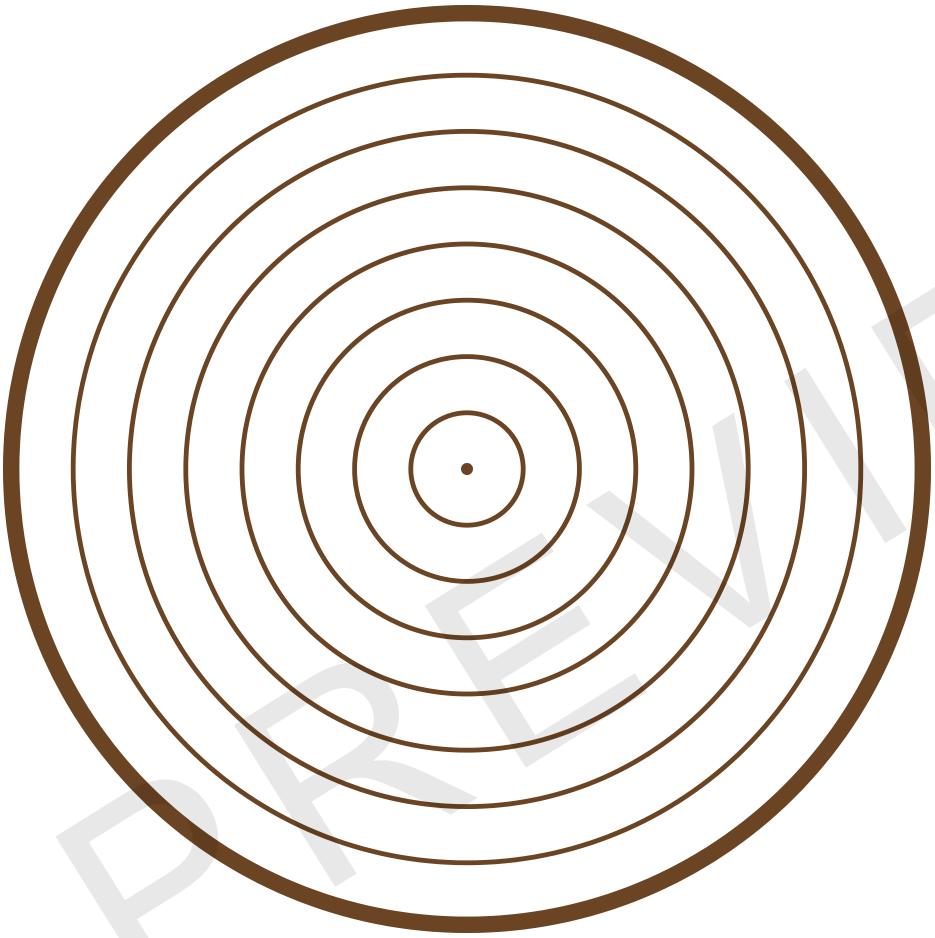
_____

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

Count, color, and answer.

Grow a Tree Ring



1. Color ring 1 (the middle) yellow.
2. Color ring 4 green.
3. Color ring 8 (the outside) blue.
4. Which ring is the newest? The one in the middle or the one on the outside?

_____

This tree was _____ years old.

A thin ring often means _____

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Pick a passage. Fill in the web.

Main Idea Web

Passage: _____

Main idea: What is the passage mostly about?

_____

_____

_____

Detail 1

_____

_____

_____

_____

Detail 2

_____

_____

_____

_____

Detail 3

_____

_____

_____

_____

Detail 4

_____

_____

_____

_____

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Passages 1 and 2

Accept any answer that says the same thing, spoken or written. "Proof sentence" is the number of the sentence on the passage page that holds the answer.

Passage 1: What Is Arbor Day? (pages 6-7)

Q	Kind	Answer	Proof sentence
1	Multiple choice	a. tree	2
2	Multiple choice	b. They plant trees.	3
3	Short answer	The last Friday in April	6
4	Multiple choice	c. Their weather is different.	7
5	Short answer	Schools, towns, and families	4
+	Highlight	In the United States, the national Arbor Day is on the last Friday in April.	6

Passage 2: Why Trees Matter (pages 8-9)

Q	Kind	Answer	Proof sentence
1	Multiple choice	a. shade	2
2	Short answer	In the branches of a tree	3
3	Multiple choice	c. oxygen	5
4	Multiple choice	b. They hold the soil in place.	6
5	Short answer	Paper, tables, or houses	8
+	Highlight	Trees give off oxygen, the air that people need to breathe.	5

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Passage 5

Accept any answer that says the same thing, spoken or written. "Proof sentence" is the number of the sentence on the passage page that holds the answer.

Passage 5: Inside a Tree: Parts and Rings (pages 14-15)

Q	Kind	Answer	Proof sentence
1	Multiple choice	a. water	2
2	Multiple choice	b. bark	4
3	Short answer	One year of growth	8
4	Multiple choice	c. ten years old	10
5	Short answer	The year was dry or hard for the tree	12
+	Highlight	To learn how old a tree was, count its rings.	9

Tree Rings (pages 16-17)

- Page 16: Tree A has 4 rings and was 4 years old. Tree B has 7 rings and was 7 years old. Tree B is the older tree, because it has more rings.
- Page 17: the tree has 8 rings, so it was 8 years old. The newest ring is the one on the outside. A thin ring often means a dry or hard year (passage 5, sentence 12).
- The coloring has no wrong answer as long as ring 1 is the middle ring and the last ring is the outside one.

Ask 10 People (page 18) and Write About It (page 21)

- The survey is a guess or a count of real answers, so there is no right answer. The two totals should add up to 10: if they do not, count the tally marks again.
- Write About It has no one answer. Look for a fact from the passages, such as the steps in passage 3, used in the writing.
- Our Arbor Day line: write the date your school or state uses.

Notes on the answers

PREVIEW

Reading Tracker

Write the date, then 1 for each question answered right (0 if not yet), then the total of 5. Write 1 under "Proof found" if the child highlighted the right sentence. A blank row means not tried yet, never wrong. The empty rows are for reading a passage again.

Student _____ Teacher _____ School year _____

Passage	Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Of 5	Proof found	Notes
1 What Is Arbor Day?									
2 Why Trees Matter									
3 How to Plant a Tree									
4 How Arbor Day Began									
5 Inside a Tree: Parts and Rings									

PREVIEW

What I notice

_____

_____

_____

_____

Next step

_____

_____

_____

_____

Ellie's Tracker (Invented Student)

Ellie R. is an invented student; nothing on this page describes a real child. The blank tracker is on page 26.

Passage	Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Of 5	Proof found	Notes
1 What Is Arbor Day?	4/7	1	1	1	1	0	4	1	–
2 Why Trees Matter	4/8	1	1	1	0	1	4	1	–
3 How to Plant a Tree	4/9	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	–
4 How Arbor Day Began	4/10	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	Read it aloud first
5 Inside a Tree: Parts and Rings	4/11	1	1	0	0	1	3	1	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

PREVIEW

How to read it

Ellie R. has done **5 of 5** passages. Points are the 1s in a row: **19 of 25** possible, or **76.0 percent**. She found the proof sentence on **4 of 5** passages. Every number is a sum of the table.

The family note this tracker would produce

"This week Ellie read 5 Arbor Day passages and answered 19 of 25 questions right. At home, please read the family page together and ask where in the text the answer is."

Reading at Home

Send this page home with a child, or hand it to a family at a conference.

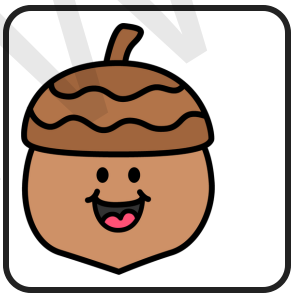
Student _____ Week of _____

How to help at home, in three steps

- Read the text below together, pointing to each word.
- Let your child read it again alone. Help with a word by saying the sounds slowly, then the word.
- Ask the questions out loud. If the answer is not clear, find the sentence together. Stop while it is still going well.

A text to practice: the first six sentences of What Is Arbor Day?

Arbor Day is a day for planting trees. The word arbor means tree. On this day, people plant new trees and take care of old ones. Schools, towns, and families all join in. Children often plant a small tree at their school. In the United States, the national Arbor Day is on the last Friday in April.



Try saying

- "What is Arbor Day? What do people do on that day?"
- "Where does it say that? Put your finger on it."
- "Where could we plant a tree? Ask an adult which trees grow well near our home."

Note from the teacher

Note from home

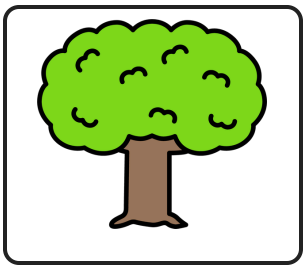
PREVIEW

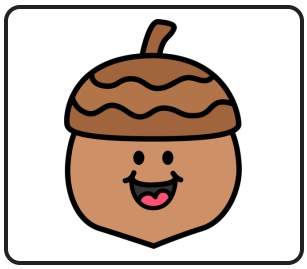
Binder Cover and Spine

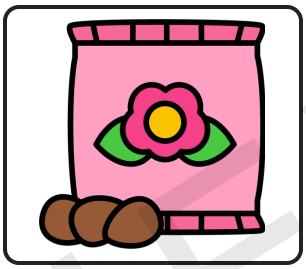
The cover and spine label for the folder that holds the student's passages.

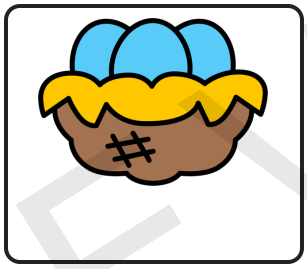
ARBOR DAY READING AND WRITING

5 passages and questions









Student name _____

Teacher _____

School year _____

Arbor Day Reading and Writing

PREVIEW

Print the cover on card stock or paper and slide it into the binder front; fold the spine label around the edge.