

# Activity 3 – First Leaves

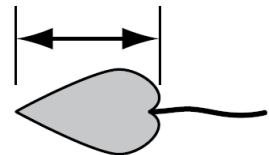
---

## 1) Keep observing the branch you selected

- Once you see a bud opening (= you can see the tip of green leaf), record “budburst” to your data sheet
- All 4 buds may not open at the same time

## 2) Measure the length of a leaf that grows from the bud

- measure and record the length at least twice a week
- use simple ruler to measure the length in mm
- measure the leaf without the stem
- continue measuring the leaf until it stops growing



Tree and Shrub Green-Up					
Date (day & month)	Leaf 1 (dormant, swelling, budburst, leaf length (mm))	Leaf 2 (dormant, swelling, budburst, leaf length (mm))	Leaf 3 (dormant, swelling, budburst, leaf length (mm))	Leaf 4 (dormant, swelling, budburst, leaf length (mm))	Data entry ✓

## 3) Take pictures regularly

- Share the photos at the [Discussion forum](#).

## 4) Optional: Record temperature and precipitation

If you have an Atmosphere site nearby, keep recording temperature and precipitation data along with observing the leaves and see if there is any link.

*And do not forget to continue taking pictures of the tree using [GrowApp!](#)*

**The activity should be completed up to May 20<sup>th</sup>.**

- ① To earn a Collaboration badge, share the picture of your tree with leaves.

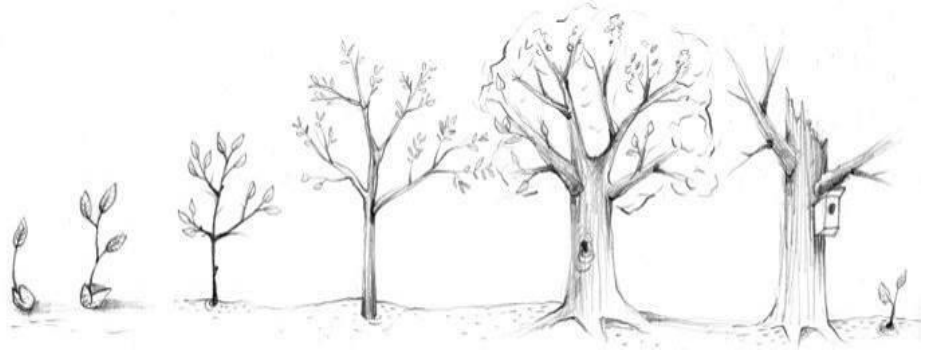
# Carbon Activity 3 – Carbon in my Tree

## You students will:

- Learn that trees of different age bind different amount of carbon.
- Calculate, how much carbon is stored in your tree.

## Basic information

Growing trees build in carbon into their biomass. CO<sub>2</sub> is bound from the air by photosynthesis and released back by breathing. Carbon is also released by decay (fallen leaves, old wood).



The CO<sub>2</sub> balance (carbon intake vs. release) changes over tree life cycle.

**Young fast-growing tree** is a natural carbon storage, consuming more CO<sub>2</sub> than releasing. **Adult mature tree** still grows, but the total wood volume and the carbon stored in the wood increases very slowly. While mature trees still need carbon dioxide for growth, much of their biomass is lost every year: branches and trunks of aging trees break and fall. As an **adult tree ages, the CO<sub>2</sub> balance comes close to zero**. When a tree dies, it does not intake carbon anymore. As the wood decays, carbon is gradually released to the soil and into the air.

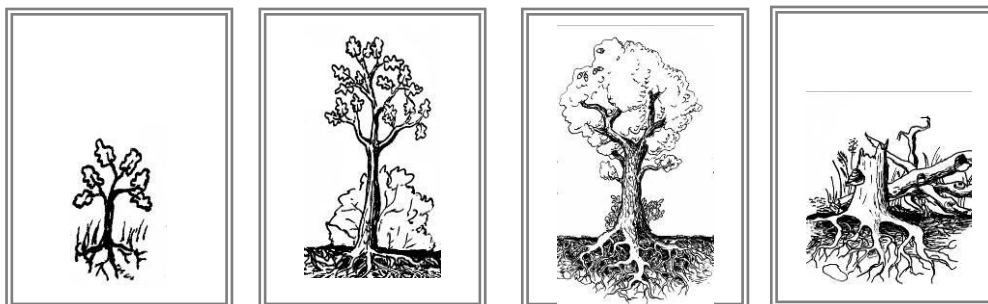
Carbon cycle of a tree is visualized in an animation by NASA:  
<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/vis/a010000/a010000/a010006/index.html>.

## Carbon in my Tree Activity

- Find out how old your tree is. Students can ask at school at the town hall, search a village chronicle or even ask their grandma 😊 If you can't find out, you can use a [Tree age calculator](#).
- Measure a circumference of your tree and calculate, how much carbon is stored in it. Download instructions and calculation table [here](#).

## Optional

- On the way to your tree or close to your school, search for: 1) young tree, 2) mature tree, 3) very old tree, 4) dead tree
- Take a photo or draw a picture of these trees. Discuss and write, how much carbon the trees store and bind.



Share photos or painting of the four trees at the Discussion forum.