



WATERSHED:

The Importance of Trees

For this episode of “[Learn Outside, At Home](#)” we are going to explore the importance of trees. At the end of the [video](#) you will be able to answer the three essential questions. As you explore with us, use this as your field guide where you can take notes and make observations.

Video: cbf.org/news-media/multimedia/video/cbf-education-videos/the-importance-of-trees.html

Investigative Questions

1. How do trees act as filters?
2. What are the benefits of neighborhood trees?
3. How do we identify trees?
4. What do the rings in trees' trunks tell us about their life?

Field Observations and Questions You Have

DIVE DEEPER:

Be the Expert

See page two of this investigation. Find a nearby tree and explore the different features we use to identify trees

Personal Tree Rings

See page three of this investigation. Draw your personal history in the style of tree rings.

Adopt a Tree

See page four of this investigation. Adopt a nearby tree, and visit it regularly to track how it changes.

Curious Connections

As you were watching the video, did you have questions of your own? Take some time to explore and research those topics that sparked your curiosity.

Volunteer at a Tree Planting

Communities and farmers are learning the importance of riparian buffers and working with organizations like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to plant trees. Many times they are looking for volunteers. Find a tree planting event near you. [Keystone 10 Million Trees](#)



Tree Features

When you find a cool tree in your neighborhood, how do you identify it? What key features do you look at to figure out what type of tree it is? After watching the video, you'll know what to look for when identifying a new tree. Find a nearby tree and sketch some key features below that help to identify it. Feel free to draw other features that helped you identify the tree.

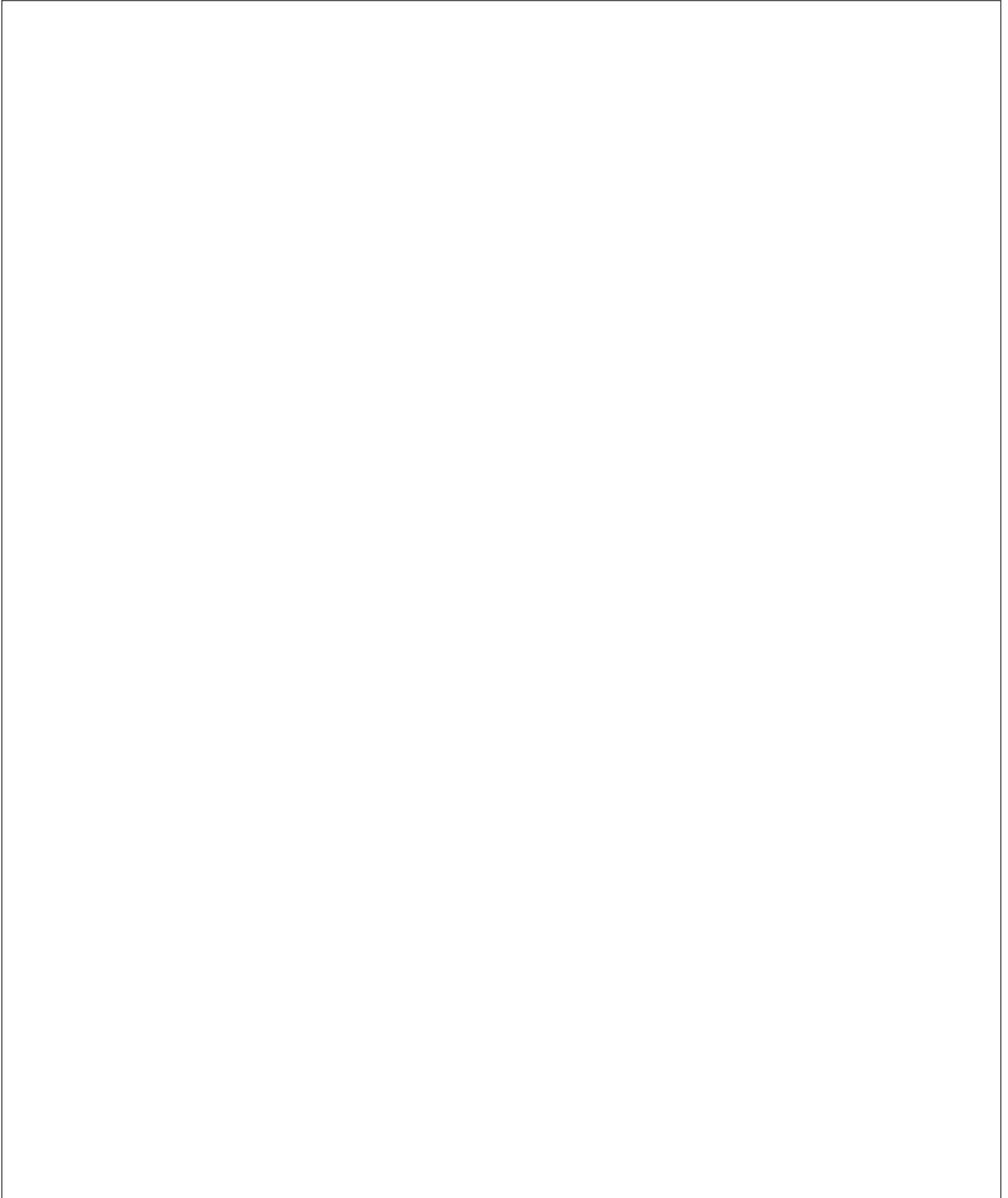
Trunk and Branch Structure

Bark

Terminal Buds

My Personal Tree Rings

Imagine the events of your life mapped out like the rings in a tree. Draw your personal tree ring history below, adding in any events that you'd like to include. What would influence the distance between your rings?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a personal tree ring history. The box is currently blank, providing space for the user to map out life events as tree rings.

Adopt a Tree

Find an old notebook or a few pieces of paper along with pencils and other art supplies. You may also wish to bring a camera, binoculars, and books or your phone to identify animals. Next, pick a nearby tree, one that's easy to get to. Visit this tree a few different times and record any changes you see in it, such as how the leaves grow and change or the appearance of nuts or flowers. Also note the birds, mammals, or insects that you see in or near your tree. The more often you visit your tree, the more you'll learn about it!

Date:	Tree Species:
Time:	Weather:
Critters	Sketch
Observations	

