

LETTER FOR TREES AND WEATHER MODULE

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Hello Teachers and Families,

During school closures, the FOSS team will be expanding the **Home/School Connection Center** on the FOSS website <https://www.fossweb.com>. Families can access Home/School Connections and many other resources (multimedia, streaming video, and *FOSS Science Resources* interactive e-book) on FOSSweb through the class pages set up by the teacher. The teacher will need to provide the class username and password for full access. Teachers can leave notes on FOSSweb class pages for students, or, instead, send messages to students through other established parent communication apps or emails.

If the teacher has not set up Class Pages, families can still access the **Home/School Connections Center** page from the main FOSSweb login page. No registration is necessary for this access.

The Home/School Connections for each module are active investigations that can be conducted at home (inside or outdoors). Over the weeks, we will be adding new activities that are part of the existing FOSS module to be used in class, but formatted for students and families to access at home.

Please refer to the teacher's communications home for specific expectations for assignments. The teacher may suggest *FOSS Science Resources* readings, videos, and multimedia from investigations in the module.

For Students and Families: To sign in to FOSSweb, use the user name and password provided by your teacher. This might be a Common Class or Individual Student login. Here's a short video to get you started on FOSSweb

For Student Sign in Video: <https://youtu.be/Fcfjbt7Li2k>

For FOSSweb help: <https://www.fossweb.com/student-parent-help>

Preview the **Module/Course Summary** from the Student Page. The **Module Overview** is available to download as a PDF. The first few pages of the Overview will help to set the context for the Home/School Connections.

For Teachers: For help in setting up and using Class Pages, use the Walk-through Videos on FOSSweb: <https://www.fossweb.com/fossweb-walkthrough-videos>

Visit the Home/School Connection for each module you teach, select the specific assignments that will be most relevant to your students at this point in instruction. Communicate with families about which content you are assigning through the Class Pages Notes on FOSSweb or through any other established parent communication channel your school has in place.

Tech support on FOSSweb: <https://www.fossweb.com/contact-us#jotform>

Together we will continue to make progress in science teaching and learning during school closures. Now, more than ever, we appreciate the role that science plays in our lives, and how important it is for citizens of all ages to understand and act based on scientific evidence.

Sincerely, The FOSS Team at the Lawrence Hall of Science

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 1

Investigation 1: Observing Trees

Here are things to do at home with this investigation.

Look at the Home School Connections for Investigation 1. (*Download the PDF in English or Spanish*)

- Take your family out to a place where there are multiple trees (but not too many to count).
- Each person in the family should guess how many trees he/she thinks are in that place.
- Count the trees together.
- Discuss the questions on the Home/School Connection sheet.
- Make a record of what you saw. Draw some trees (based on the kinds you see), tell how many trees you counted, and write a description of the trees you see.

Math Extensions:

Measure the circumference of the trees outside

Bring a roll of string and a pair of scissors with you when you go outside to count the trees. Measure around the trunk of various trees and cut a length of string that shows how big around the tree is. Compare the lengths of strings. Have your child put them in order from shortest (thinnest tree trunk) to longest (thickest tree trunk) string. Are the thinnest tree trunks also the shortest trees?

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 1

Investigation 1: Observing Trees

Read “Where Do Trees Grow?” in FOSS Science Resources: Trees and Weather eBook

To access the interactive eBook, login to FOSSweb with the username and password provided by your teacher.

Introduce the title, “Where Do Trees Grow?”. Ask your child what they think the article will be about.

Read the article with your child. You can click on the speaker icon on each page to have the text read to your child as well. As you read the article together, answer the questions on the pages together. In addition, here are some things you can do together with the interactives on the pages. (Click on the movie clip icon to play the clips.)

- **Page 3:** Ask your child if the tree in the video is a small tree or a large tree. How do they know? Have them point out the trunk, branches, and leaves of the tree.
- **Pages 6–7:** Ask your child if the trees that grow on mountains are the same or different from the trees that grow in valleys.
- **Page 9:** This video shows trees roots growing in the ocean water. What do they notice about these roots?
- **Page 11:** This video shows trees growing in swamps. Have they ever seen a swamp? What do they notice about swamps?
- **Page 12:** This video shows fruit on a cherry tree. Ask your child if they know of other kinds of fruit that grows on trees.
- **Page 13:** The interactive link on this page links to the “Who Lives Here?” multimedia on FOSSweb. Have your child interact with the multimedia to learn about the organisms that make certain trees their homes. You can also access this resource directly from your teacher’s FOSSweb Class Page.

Extension activity:

Go outdoors and look at some trees in your yard or neighborhood. Can you see any animals making the tree its home? Draw the tree and draw the home the animal made in the tree.

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 1

Investigation 1: Observing Trees

Read “What Do Plants Need?” in FOSS Science Resources: Trees and Weather eBook

To access the interactive eBook, login to FOSSweb with the username and password provided by your teacher.

Introduce the title, “What Do Plants Need?”. Ask your child what they think the article will be about.

Read the article with your child. You can click on the speaker icon on each page to have the text read to your child as well. As you read the article together, answer the questions on the pages together. In addition, here are some things you can do together with the interactives on the pages. (Click on the movie clip icon to play the clips.)

- **Page 15:** This clip shows a child watering plants. How else can plants get water?
- **Page 16:** This clip shows some plant seedlings growing. Why do you think the seedlings are growing in the same direction?
- **Pages 18–19:** There are two clips on these pages showing plants growing. What structures do plants have? How are they similar and different to the structures that trees have? What do plants need to live?
- **Page 19:** Interactive link: This links to the “Leaf Sorting Game” on FOSSweb. Work with your child to match a leaf’s shape to a geometric shape.

Extension Activity:

If you have some seeds at home, let your child plant a few seeds and observe how they grow. They can observe the different structures of their plants as they grow and mature. (Dry beans from your pantry can also be planted and grown.)