

For additional information and activities visit:



-Wangari Maathai

“When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and hope.”

NATURE QUOTE

The activities in this journal can be done on almost any quiet patch of earth in our area.



Land Trusts are member driven non-profits working for you in our communities. Please consider supporting these organizations.

Bonus: Did you find any flowers tucked inside the bud?

Note: Don't pick more than one bud/tree as the leaves they become are necessary to produce food

- Pick one swelling bud from a tree and carefully open it.
- Use a pin to separate any tiny leaves found inside.
- Count the number of leaves. Do the same with the bud of another tree species and compare the numbers.

Spring Buds = Surprise Package

ACTIVITY:



Bark Color: Silver-gray or grayish green
Bark Type: Smooth/Unbroken (often pockmarks or cankers caused by beech bark disease)
Buds: Alternate, long, slender, come to sharp point
Fruit: Bur filled with two triangular shaped seeds

AMERICAN BEECH

Fagus grandifolia

POCKET NATURE JOURNAL

IDENTIFYING TREES IN SPRING



EARLY SPRING TREE ID USING BARK & BUDS

In early spring before deciduous trees leaves unfurl we can identify them by their bark & buds. Using this guide & the resources on www.wfllmaine.org/natureactivities you can too. We will ID 3 trees.

BUDS: Leaf/Branching Patterns

Alternate: Climb up the branches or buds one at a time
Opposite: Branches and buds appear in pairs

BARK: We'll Cover 3 Types

Ridges and Furrows: Vertical ridges separated by deep furrows
Vertical Strips: Strips running from top to bottom that are at least three times longer than wide
Smooth/Unbroken: Not peeling, cracked, or furrowed



Bark Color: Light to dark gray
Bark Type: Almost smooth to cracked, vertical, plate-like strips; on older trees, strips curl outward on either side; sometimes bull's eye target caused by a fungus
Buds: Opposite, short, red balls, often clustered, on red twigs
Fruit: Winged samara

RED MAPLE

Acer rubrum

NORTHERN RED OAK

Quercus rubra

Bark Color: Greenish brown or gray, with rusty red inner bark

Bark Type: Wide, flat-topped ridges run vertically down the tree & look like ski trails; dark, shallow, reddish furrows separate the ridges

Buds: Alternate, sharp & tapering with hairs near the tip, resemble a crown

Fruit: Acorn

