

## April - Week 4

## Arbor Day

**National Arbor Day is the last Friday of April** each year. It has been celebrated for over 150 years. Many people celebrate the event by learning about trees and planting trees in their communities.

This week, observe trees around you. What types of trees are in your yard, schoolyard, parks, or local woodlands? Minnesota is home to two forest biomes, including Deciduous and Coniferous Forests. Do you notice deciduous trees, coniferous trees, or both in your community?

Select one tree to observe, or select two and create a compare/contrast page in your journal. Notice the texture and color(s) of the bark on the trunk and branches. Observe the buds. Are the buds opening? What color(s) are they? Examine the leaves if they are out. If you are observing a coniferous tree, their leaves are in the form of needles. What do you notice about the needles? Create a "field guide" page or "all about me" for a tree. Include words, pictures, and numbers (counts, measurements). If your observations inspire you, write a poem or other creative writing about the tree.

If possible, plant a tree this week. Visit your tree each year on Arbor Day to observe its development.



The first Arbor Day in the United States was celebrated in 1872. The tiny seedling in this photo was planted in 1986 in French Regional Park in Plymouth and is now over 30 feet tall.