

# It's nice to meet you tree

This activity is an opportunity for you or your family to meet and get to know a tree. It could be a tree in your neighbourhood, at a park, your school, or in the bush. To begin with, choose a tree that you like in a place that works for you or your family. Take pencil and paper with you. You can try some or all of the ideas on this page, or come up with your own ways to get to know your tree. You can use these ideas as discussion points, record them with a tick, writing, drawing or photos. The most important things are to connect, explore, discuss, and reflect.

1

Take some time to breathe deeply. You may be breathing in oxygen created by your tree, and it may breathe in the carbon dioxide that you are breathing out.

2

What shapes can you see in the tree? Are there twisted branches, light and shadow patterns, or markings on the trunk?

3

How old do you think the tree is? Is it older or younger than you? Your family members?

4

How many colours and shades are there on the tree?

5

Describe the feel of the bark with as many words as you can.

7

What wildlife could be living in or eating the tree? Remember to look for tiny insects and big creatures.

8

Does your tree have flowers? Describe their shape and colour. Do they smell nice?

9

Are there any plants, lichen or moss growing on the tree? Describe them.

10

What sort of environment does this tree live in? Is it a dry forest, a school yard, a riverside, a farm, a mountain top?

11

What parts of the tree can you see at your feet? Are there leaves, fallen branches, seeds/nuts, flowers or roots poking through the soil?

12

What sorts of things may have happened around this tree over its lifetime? Maybe bushwalkers leaning on it, birds nesting in its branches, children climbing it, or even fire. You may wish to write a creative story about what your tree could have experienced.

13

How is this tree like me/us? Take some time to consider things about the tree that are similar to you, for example it is growing, or it lives in the same street.

14

Give your tree a name. You could make up a name like 'The Magic Flowering Gum' or 'The Grey Ribbon Bark Tree' or use a field guide to identify what type it is.

15

Draw a picture of your tree or a part of your tree, such as a leaf or branch. Include as much detail as you like.

16

Return to your tree at different times of the day or year as a chance to get to know it better or observe any changes.

