White Oak Activity

Learn about the trees that make acorns!

In the book *Because of an Acorn* by Lola M. Schaefer and Adam Schaefer, we learn about acorns and oak trees. An acorn is the fruit of an oak tree, which is called a nut. The tree hides its seed in the acorn. Some acorns will become new oak trees, but many acorns will become food for squirrels, birds, and other forest creatures.

Have you ever seen a squirrel burying an acorn in the fall? They are storing food for the winter. But the squirrels don’t always remember where they put all of their acorns, and the ones they can’t find will one day turn into oak trees.

You can find White Oaks all over the Emerald Necklace. Follow these steps to find and identify a White Oak tree!

**Materials:**

- Activity sheet
- Extra blank sheet of paper for bark rubbing
- Crayon or chalk
- Park map (optional)

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Activity Steps:

1. Start by finding an area with lots of trees.
2. Look closely at each tree. How tall are they? How thick are their trunks? Do they have needles or leaves? In the winter, you might have to pay extra attention because many trees won’t have any leaves on them.
3. Feel the bark on the trees. Is it smooth, rough, or peeling? What color is it?
4. Use the sheet below to record your observations and find a White Oak tree.
5. Take a bark rubbing of your tree to record what you found (sheet below).

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Find a White Oak

Use this sheet to record your observations

**Bark**

White Oak trees have rough and cracking bark, which is light gray or white in color

I see

I feel

I wonder

**Shape**

White Oak Trees have a wide round shape with thick twisting branches

I see

I feel

I wonder

**Trunk**

An older White Oak tree will have a very sturdy thick trunk
I see

I feel

I wonder

Leaves

The leaves will be lobed and smooth. In the winter, White Oak trees lose their leaves completely.

I see

I feel

I wonder

Draw your Tree here:

https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/
Bark Rubbing

A Bark rubbing is a way to record the texture, shape, and pattern of a tree’s bark. This can help you identify a tree, especially in the winter when some trees don’t have leaves. Follow these step to make your own bark rubbing!

1. Place your blank piece of paper on a dry spot of the trunk, making sure it’s pressed all the way up against the bark.

2. Holding the piece of paper in place, start to rub your crayon or chalk against the page. You should start to see the pattern of the bark on your paper.

3. Cover the whole page with crayon or chalk. You have made a bark rubbing! Take the paper off of the trunk and run your hand over the page. You might be able to feel the bumps and grooves of the bark.