My Tree Observations

First Day Observations:

1. Go outside.

2. Pick a tree in your school yard.

3. Sit down far enough away from the tree that you can see the entire tree.

4. Sketch the tree. Try to show the shape of the trunk, the shape of the top of the tree.

5. Make a list of at least 10 observations about your tree. Each observation should be unique and with as much detail as possible.
   a. Be sure to measure the circumference of the tree. You will use this measurement to estimate the age of the tree.
   b. Be sure to measure the length of the tree’s shadow. Hold a meter stick next to the tree, straight up from the ground. Measure the length of the meterstick’s shadow. You will use these measurements later to calculate the height of the tree.

6. Use an art pencil or chalk and white paper to make a rubbing of the tree bark.

7. Take a sample of at least two leaves including the branch. You will be keeping/preserving this sample.

8. Take a digital photo of your tree. You will be printing this photo later.

Once a month the rest of the school year:

1. Go outside.

2. Sketch a sketch of your tree. You want to observe and show as many differences in your tree as you can.

3. Take a photo of your tree.

4. Take a sample of one leaf.

5. Write at least five observations of your tree. These should be observations of what is different about your tree from the last time you observed your tree.
My Tree
Observations

My Name: __________________________

My Tree: __________________________

My School: _________________________

School Year of: ____________________

Insert Photo

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Initial Tree Observations

Date: ______________________

Type of Tree: ______________________

Sketch of Tree:
Initial Tree Observations:

1. ________________________________________________________________
2. ________________________________________________________________
3. ________________________________________________________________
4. ________________________________________________________________
5. ________________________________________________________________
6. ________________________________________________________________
7. ________________________________________________________________
8. ________________________________________________________________
9. ________________________________________________________________
10. ________________________________________________________________

Estimate Tree Age: ________________ years

Tree circumference: _____cm / 2.5 cm = ____________ cm

Calculate Tree Height: ________________ meters

Shadow of tree = Shadow of Meterstick

Height of Tree      Height of Meterstick

Show your work:
Attach Leaf Sample:

Attach Bark Rubbing:
Date_______ Tree Observations # ____:

1. ____________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________________________

Sketch:

Attach Leaf Sample:
SUMMARY QUESTIONS:

1. What type of tree did you observe?
   How many others of this tree do you see in your school yard?

2. Approximately how old is your tree?

3. How tall was your tree in the fall?
   The spring?
   How much did your tree grow?

4. Describe your tree’s bark:
   Talk with someone else whose tree is different from yours. How does your tree’s bark texture contrast with theirs?

5. How many animals did you observe on or about your tree this year? ______
   List:
   What did they appear to be doing?

6. How are the seeds from your tree dispersed?
   Sketch a seed from your tree:
   Dissect a seed. Draw the inside here:
   Estimate the number of seeds produced on your tree:
   Describe your estimation method here:

7. Record the dates of the following:
   The date when over 90% of the leaves show fall color: ____________________
The date when every leaf had fallen: ________________
The date you observed the first bud: ________________
The date you observed the first leaf: ________________
The date you observed the first fruit: ________________

8. Sketch the general shape of your tree’s leaves:

What colors did your leaves turn in the fall?

Estimate how many leaves your tree has during the summer months: __________

Describe your estimation method:

Measure the length of at least five leaves on your tree. (Don’t remove the leaves!)

Record here: ________________________________________________________

What is the average length of leaves on your tree? ____________ cm

Show your work:

9. Determine the crown width of your tree. Put stakes in the ground from one side to the other and measure the length.

My tree’s Crown Width = ____________________________ meters

Sketch the shape of your tree’s crown here:

10. In what ways do you think you “knew” your tree better in the spring than in the fall?