



Cloverbud Connection 2024-2025

Dear Family

We are EXCITED to offer a year long opportunity for Cloverbuds (youth in grades K-2) in Barron, Burnett, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties to participate in 4-H project opportunities at home AND to be able to connect with others in the 5 county area throughout the year!

How can we get involved?

Each month, all Cloverbuds will be mailed a packet with an activity for the month. If your Cloverbud(s) choose to participate in that month, you can share what they did with your local educator and youth will be entered into a drawing to win 4-H swag.

Throughout the year, there will be opportunities to have a PenPal, in-person gatherings, zoom connections, and an in-person Cloverbud Day-Camp celebration in August. Families can choose how much or how little they participate!

What about other Cloverbud Opportunities?

This is not meant to replace or take away from other opportunities in your home county, it is just an extra way for 4-H Cloverbuds to connect with others.

In Wisconsin 4-H we value:



Being Yourself: Find and share your authentic sparks and interests.



Belonging Together: Recognize, understand, respect, and appreciate each other.



Building Connection: Grow positive relationships with peers and adults.



Discovering Skills: Develop skills through hands-on learning to help you succeed and thrive.



Exploring New Opportunities: Open the door to new experiences, projects, and places.



Giving Back to Your Community: Make meaningful contributions through community service and leadership.

OCTOBER: Let's Celebrate 4-H Zoom Life Cycle of a Tree

Questions? Contact:

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CLOVERBUDS

Cloverbud Connection 2024-2025

Dear Cloverbud,

Welcome! We are excited to have you as a Cloverbud in 4-H and we want to invite you to learn about 4-H and 4-H projects with us!

Every month, you will get an envelope with fun 4-H projects and/or activities to try (and maybe a fun trinket too).

When you complete it, ask an adult to share a picture of your work with your County Extension office and you will get entered into a drawing for some 4-H swag.

Twice this year we will connect virtually (fall and spring) and twice we will connect in-person (winter and summer). You can also sign-up to have a 4-H Cloverbud Pen Pal if you want!

Be sure to save the pages to put in a book at the end of the 4-H year!

We can't wait to have fun in 4-H with you this year!
From Sara, Karrie, Donna and Beth

What's coming up?

October: Life Cycle of a Tree and Celebrate 4-H

November: Community Involvement; Snack Mix Together and Pen Pal Sign-up.



Being
Yourself



Belonging
Together



Building
Connections



Discovering
Skills



Exploring New
Opportunities



Giving Back to
Your Community

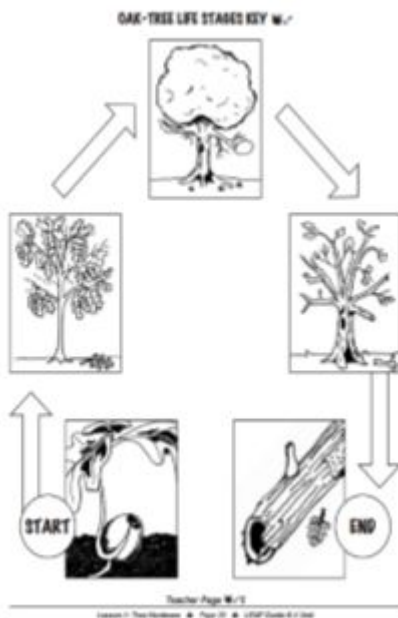


October Lesson: Life Cycle of a Tree

All living things have life stages, even trees! Some stages include: germination, growth, maturity, reproduction, decline, and death.

Directions: First, ask an adult or friend to read the story on the next page, *The Acorn*. This story goes through a tree's journey from germination, to maturity and reproduction, to decline, then on to death and decomposition. Things that appear in () parentheses in bold are ideas that can be acted out with your body as if you were the tree in the story. You can decide if you want the reader to read these actions or if you want to come up with your own. This will be like acting and listening to a story all at the same time! Read the green box below to learn more about this theatrical technique.

Next, thinking back to the story *The Acorn* that we just listened to and pantomimed, draw what the tree looked like in each life stage from germination to decline and death.



Did you know?

Pantomime is a theatrical technique used to communicate without words. When you use pantomime to tell a story, it works well to use larger-than-life movements and facial expressions. Your movements can give clues to an audience about the characters, the setting, or the situations in a story. Since everyone's imaginations come up with different ideas, each person's pantomimed movements show their special creativity.

Connection to Wisconsin 4-H:

Much like the life cycle of a tree, 4-H'ers have a life cycle too. You start as Cloverbuds when you are 5 and in 5-year-old-kindergarten. Then become a member during grades 3-13. Once you graduate from 4-H you can become a volunteer and once you are an adult age 21+ you can become a chaperone.



More FUN!

Try a leaf rubbing!
Place a blank piece of paper over the top of a leaf, and rub an unwrapped crayon (sideways) over the top and see what happens.



October Lesson: *The Acorn*



In a breezy but quiet backyard, not too far from here, an acorn blew from a tall oak tree and landed in the grass. **(wave your arms like branches on a tall oak tree).**

After lying in the grass for what seemed like a very long time, the acorn noticed that he wasn't alone. Other acorns had fallen from the huge oak, and they were scattered beneath the tree, too. The acorn saw things happening to the other acorns. Four acorns **(hold up 4 fingers)** had disappeared after a loud, windy machine rolled by. Three acorns **(hold up 3 fingers)** had been carried away by a squirrel. Two acorns **(hold up 2 fingers)** had been pushed deep into the soil by walking feet. One acorn **(hold up pointer finger)** had a large crack around the outside coat. Our acorn felt very lucky to be safe and whole.

But after an enjoyable morning shower and some late afternoon sun, the acorn discovered that he had a crack in his coat, too. He didn't feel broken. No feet had squished the acorn. No squirrels had disturbed his time in the grass. Out of the crack in his coat stretched thin roots. Soon, the roots found soil and he noticed a green stem with a small leaf attached. The acorn had gone through germination and was no longer an acorn. He was a seedling! **(Hold up your pointer finger like a very small tree)**

The little seedling kept growing. From his new height, he could see that the other acorns had also turned into seedlings. The seedling was turning into quite the little oak tree. He now had three leaves! **(Hold up 3 fingers)**. It probably didn't look like much compared to the giant oak, but he was very proud just the same! **(Look around at other seedlings you see growing and wave your fingers like little branches with new leaves!)**

As the days got shorter and cooler, the leaves began to fall from the mature oak tree and land all around the smaller tree. Autumn was here, and many trees were beginning to lose their leaves. The tree wasn't worried. He knew he wasn't dying when his leaves fell. It was just another change as he continued to grow. **(Slowly flutter your hands down toward the ground, losing your leaves for the winter).**

Winter followed autumn, and soon, spring danced into the air. When the snow was gone, the little oak saw that he was the only seedling to survive the cold winter and hungry neighborhood bunnies. Still, he was happy and proud of his growth and fresh spring buds on his tiny branches. **(Turn your hands around and curl your fingertips towards you as if your fingernails were new buds).**

Spring continued to warm, and summer quickly followed. Summer brought its warm sun, just as spring had brought its cool rain. Thanks to the sun and rain, the little tree continued to grow. **(Move your arms from by your sides up to in front of your chest to show the growth a tree).**

(turn to the next page to continue reading the story)



October Lesson: *The Acorn pg 2*

The tree stretched taller and taller. Another year passed and then another and another. He no longer worried that feet would step on him. He knew the squirrel could no longer carry him away. He had deep roots, a strong trunk, and a thick crown of branches and leaves. **(Move your arms from in front of your chest to in front of your face).**

The wind of a storm pushed down the mighty oak whom he had fallen from as an acorn. The young tree knew he would miss the shade the big tree had given on hot summer days, but he also knew that he would now have enough space to grow and become a very big tree. **(Stretch your arms high up in the air, becoming the big oak in the yard).**

Years passed, and the trees began to grow acorns of his own. He wasn't worried when they fell off, since he knew that was where he had come from. He wished them well and continued to grow himself. **(Pretend to shake your fingers as if you're dropping your acorns off into the yard below).**

The tree continued to stand through many seasons and many years until he grew old and very large. The tree had dropped many acorns onto the grass below over the years. Some of them were nice looking little oaks by now. The oak noticed that he had very few leaves on his branches. Insects had begun to make homes in his trunk, and mushrooms had begun to grow on some of his branches. **(Look down at the nice little oaks that grew from your acorns and the mushrooms growing on your pretend trunk and branches).**

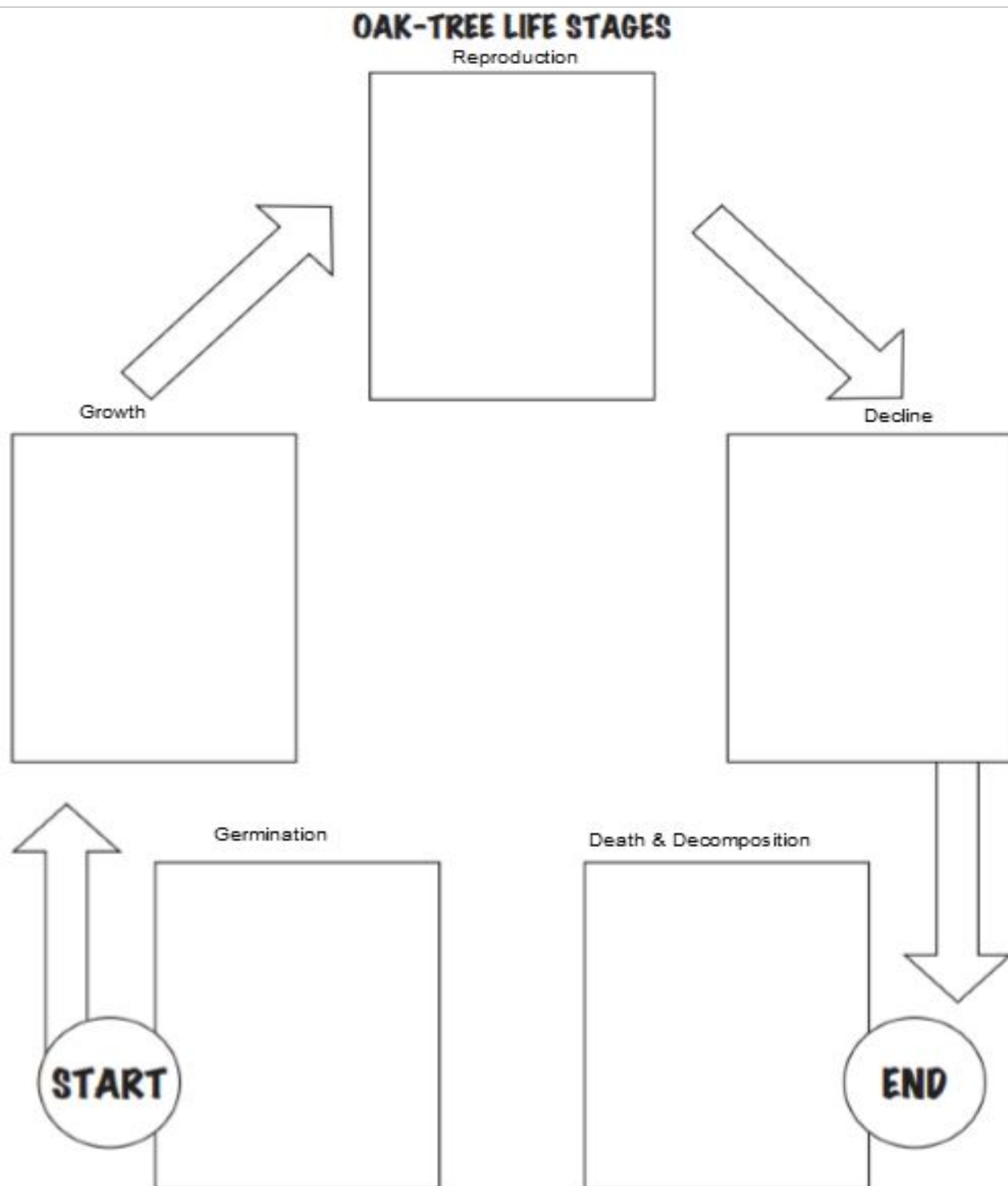
More years passed, the tree grew no leaves at all. The tree still felt very alive, though, with many new creatures living in his limbs. One year, **(hold up pointer finger)** strong winds pushed the tree over. New plants soon grew up in the space the big tree left and used the tree for shelter and for nutrients. The tree felt like a grandpa, helping new and different plants and animals to live and grow.

The tree had come from a tree, falling as an acorn from its branches. It had grown from a small seedling into a large tree that had acorns on his own branches. It had fallen and, in this stage of the tree's life, he would slowly pass on his energy to new trees, maybe even some little oak!



October Lesson: Life Cycle of a Tree

In the boxes below, draw pictures to go with the life stages of an oak tree. Start with the box by the word start and work clockwise around the circle following the arrows. Color in each picture as much as you want to.



Discovering Skills



Artwork by Kate Delcore, Grade 9, Washington County

Develop skills through hands-on learning to help you succeed and thrive

Discovering Skills

Create your own drawing or leaf rubbing here.

Develop skills through hands-on learning to help you succeed and thrive