



Vocabulary

Seed: A fertilized egg that contains an embryo and stored food and is capable of becoming a new plant

Root: the part of a plant that grows underground and provides the plant with water and nutrients.

Leaf: The part of a plant, usually thin, flat and green that produces food.

Flower: The part of a plant that is often very colorful where seeds are made.

Bark: An outer covering that protects the trunk of woody trees and shrubs.

Chlorophyl: The pigment responsible for making leaves green.

Fruit: the ripened ovary of a plant where seeds are held.



To help your students make the most of their trip to Meerkerk Gardens, here are some suggested activities:

Before your Botany Adventure Tour:

- Do your students have favorite trees?
- Read *BE A FRIEND TO TREES* by Patricia Lauber.
- Take a walk and observe how trees change in the fall.
- What questions do your students have about trees?



After your Botany Adventure Tour:

- Eat a seedy snack.
- Create bark or leaf rubbings.
- Read *LEAF MAN* by Lois Ehlert and make some pictures using fall leaves.
- Design a new tree
- Plant a tree at your school or adopt one nearby.



Meerkerk Gardens

Whidbey Islands peaceful woodland garden presents:

Meet a Tree!



A Botany Adventure School Program for grades k-2



With support from:

- Debbi and Paul Brainerd
- Coupeville Garden Club
- Greenbank Garden Club
- Kiwanis Club of South Whidbey
- Lucky Seven Foundation
- Meerkerk's Dreams of Spring
- South Whidbey Garden Club
- South Whidbey Rotary
- Tulalip Tribes
- WalMart Community Fund
- And our dedicated volunteers!*

Meerkerk Gardens

encompass ten acres of display, educational, and research gardens enveloped by forty-three acres of forest preserve with nearly 5 miles of nature trails. Meerkerk Gardens is a not-for-profit organization, an outdoor classroom and living museum.

Botany Adventure Tours are inquiry-based, guided science programs conducted at Meerkerk Gardens and in the classroom. Botany Adventure currently introduces students in grades k-5 from all school back-grounds to plant growth and development through a series of 1-2 hour seasonal tours in the “outdoor classroom.”

Teachers also have the option of a pre-tour or post-tour visit from Meerkerk staff to help students connect their field trip experience with their classroom activities and everyday lives.

Botany Adventure school programs feature hands-on, child-centered activities and are aligned with Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements. All programs emphasize that outdoor experiences contribute to the health and well-being of children. The common thread woven through all programs is the interdependence of life on earth.



We invite you and your class to...

join us on a Botany Adventure tour through Meerkerk Gardens and experience the vivid colors and fragrances of autumn.

Watch a tree breathe, seeds travel, and observe animals and plants preparing for the winter months ahead.

Meet a Tree tours are designed to help students understand:

- ❁ The mission and importance of Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens.
- ❁ Plants are made of different parts that serve different functions.
- ❁ Plant parts work together to help plants survive, grow and reproduce.
- ❁ Plants provide people and animals with many of the things they need to survive and grow.



❁ We offer two types of educational experiences for your class:

Meet a Tree tours are offered on selected weekdays during September and October from 10:00 - 11:30 or from 12:30-2:00.

Classes may choose to start or end the day with a picnic lunch.

Minimum group size: 8 students

Maximum group size: 30 students

Fee: \$3.00 per student

(There is no fee charged to teachers or chaperones.)

Meet a Tree tour + Classroom

Visit. Our horticultural staff would love to visit your classroom before your tour to prepare students for what they will see in the garden or after your tour to complete a project.

Fee for tour and visit: \$5.00 per student

Financial assistance is available.

Contact:

Deborah Smith, Education Coordinator

Phone: 360-222-3382

Email: deborah@meerkerkgardens.org

For more information (and a booklist):
<http://www.meerkerkgardens.org/botanyadventure.html>