

ARBOR SLEUTH

AFTER 1: Trees in your Schoolyard- Take Action!

VA Standards Addressed: Science (2018) 5.1, 6.1, 7.1. English (2017) 5.7, 5.9, 6.7, 6.9, 7.7, 7.9

Instructional Strategy:

1. Reassess the schoolyard and the trees in it. Student investigation questions are:
 - What trees are on your campus?
 - What is the health of these trees?
 - Instruct students to review their notes from before the field investigation and add their reassessment to this document.
2. If your students found a “tree in trouble” in their schoolyard, they can adopt the tree as a service learning project or invite a tree expert (from a garden center, tree trimming company, or the local forestry department) to talk to your group about things they can do to help the tree.
3. Student Research- Use the questions to guide tree and shrub research.
 - What trees or shrubs can be added to the schoolyard?
 - How can you determine what trees or shrubs you could plant at school?
 - Who would you talk to at school to come up with a plan?
 - Some great online resources for tree and shrub research are:
 - <https://dof.virginia.gov/education-and-recreation/educator-resources/buy-an-id-book/>
 - <https://www.buyvatrees.com/>
 - <https://caseytrees.org/plant/school-tree-planting/>
4. Students research potential plants and consult with experts (Department of Forestry, a local arborist, building maintenance, so on) as to the feasibility of plantings in their schoolyard.
5. Students compose a persuasive paragraph or create a presentation to report on potential trees or plants to add. They should justify their reasoning using evidence from field experiences, experts, and research.

