

# PAPER BAG TREE

**Description:** Teaching kids about the beauty, wisdom, and importance of trees

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**Grade level or Target Age Range:** Pre-School to Middle-School

**Vocabulary:** *Volume, Mass, Texture, Seasons, Nature*

## Materials

1. PaperBags
2. Scissor
3. Tissue Paper
4. Glue

## Directions

- Relax and focus in on work with stretching (5 minutes)
- Develop discussion on seasons, nature, and our impact (5 minutes)

What is it like outside? What season is it now? What season is next? What kind of trees do you see in the spring? Do we need trees? Do Animals need trees? Have you ever heard some one say trees are wise?

1. Cut lunch bag into half-inch strips. Start at the opening and cut half way down the bag. (about 10 minutes)
2. Open bag and stand it up. (2 minutes)
3. Hold base of bag with one hand and twist the middle of bag to create the trunk of the tree. (2 minutes)
4. Twist two of the bag strips together to create branches. (10 minutes)
5. Rip strips of colored paper into tiny pieces and glue them all over the branches of the tree. (10 minutes)



## Discussion

(Life Applications – How the lesson might apply to non-art related experiences or other types of knowledge)

1. Do we need trees?
2. Do Animals need trees?
3. Does anyone know why trees are considered wise?
4. What trees do you know?

## Instructional Reflection

1. Kids responded wonderfully to the Q and A about their local trees. The students were also very excited to identify different streets named after trees.
2. The younger students had a difficult time twisting branches, so assistance may be necessary depending on the age range.
3. It is also important to emphasize that no one tree looks like any other. Some have more twisted branches, while others maintain straight branches. Making every individual student's tree accurate to what a tree looks like. It does not need to look identical to the example.
4. The lesson is flexible to seasons. They can remain bare to represent winter, or they can have different leaf colors for spring or fall. We decided to celebrate the first week of spring with light green leaves. If you do decide to add leaves make sure to specify the importance of conserving glue while attaching!