


<p>Unit 5</p>  <p>Week 5</p>	<p>Outdoor Learning Opportunities:</p> <p>Flowering Trees</p>	<p>Standards: S.ES.PS.1 S.LS.PS.1-3 PHS.FM.PS.5</p>
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<p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tree parts – twigs, flowers, seeds, leaves ● Tree cuttings – apple, forsythia, maple, oak, and pussy willow ● Sharp knife or pruner ● Vases with water ● Magnifying lenses 	<p>Vocabulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Twig ● Flower ● Bud ● Pussy willow ● Forsythia
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As the days get longer and the nights shorter (after the vernal equinox) the additional sunlight triggers plants to grow. Children can begin to understand that trees are waking up and their buds will begin to open. Some trees will flower before their leaves emerge.

During group time pass around the parts of a tree and have children examine them. Discuss the coming of spring and ask how trees will grow during this time. Will any of these items change? What will happen if we put a twig in water?

Go outside and look for twigs from an apple, maple, and oak tree and a forsythia bush and pussy willow. These are twigs that can be forced to flower earlier by taking cuttings and putting them in water inside immediately. Use a pruner or sharp knife to cut the twigs and then recut as needed over time. Change the water often, as well. Have the children predict whether the buds on the twigs inside will open before the ones on the same trees and bushes outside. Which buds will flower? Which buds have leaves inside them?

Extension: Have the children dissect buds. Collect fallen twigs that have large buds (e.g. hickory, poplar, tulip tree, etc.). Children can use plastic knives to take the buds apart and use magnifying lenses to examine the inside of the buds.

Guiding Questions:

- How do the trees know it is time to grow?

- What is inside a bud?
- Why do some trees have big flowers and others have small flowers?