



WEEK 3 Day 2

Blocks: Building a Forest

Children work together to build a forest using varied blocks.

Big Ideas	The natural world can improve people’s quality of life and inspire artistic expression.
Guiding Questions	How can the earth inspire artistic expression? How do plants grow and change over time? What do plants need to survive?
Vocabulary	trunk: the main part of a tree branch: woody part of a tree that grows from the trunk leaves: flat part of the plant that grow from the stem roots: part of the plant that grows underground
Materials and Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● blocks (unit, hollow foam) ● <i>The Gift of the Tree</i>, text and slides ● <i>The Great Kapok Tree</i>, text and slides ● <i>Be a Friend to Trees</i>, text and slides ● tree images from week 2 ● tree images slides from week 2 ● <i>A Walk in the Woods</i> slides from week 2 ● Amazon Rainforest images from Library & Listening ● children’s research sheets <p>Organize and set out images, books and slides for inspiration. If possible allow for the children’s trees/forest to stay up into the following week.</p>
Intro to Centers	<p><i>We are learning about trees and the forest while reading The Gift of the Tree and The Great Kapok Tree and we have started researching rainforests in Library & Listening. What is something you have learned?</i></p> <p>Invite a few responses from children.</p>

	<p><i>This week we want to challenge you to build trees or the forest. We have lots of resources for inspiration: you can review books, use the research sheets from Library & Listening, or look at some of these images and videos you have used in other centers.</i></p> <p>Share either a few images or videos. <i>Talk to a partner about what you notice.</i></p> <p>Invite a few children to share after they talk with a partner. <i>You can use different kinds of blocks to build trees and the forest. You could work on one tree or the whole forest.</i></p> <p>Show some of some of the different blocks. <i>How would you use these blocks to build the trunk, branches, roots and leaves of trees?</i></p> <p>Invite children to share their ideas. <i>If it is helpful you can start by sketching a plan for your trees and/or forest, like when we were using the design process during the construction unit, and then you can build.</i> <i>Collaborating will help you to problem solve as you work on building one tree or a whole forest together.</i></p>
During Centers	<p>As children begin to work, support them to use the resources, including their research, to get ideas. Guide them to consider different kinds of blocks to use. Remind children of the power of teamwork, and encourage them to share their ideas with each other as they build a forest together.</p>
Facilitation	<p>What do you notice about the trees/forest in the images/videos? How do the images or videos inspire your work? How does researching help you get ideas for how to build trees and forest? How did you decide on what materials to use? How does working together help you to problem solve? Are you working on individual trees or on a forest? Why? How did you decide?</p>
Standards	<p>SL.1.K.a Participate in collaborative conversations about kindergarten topics and texts with peers, and adults in small and larger groups. SL.3.K.b Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.</p>

Notes
