ARBOR SLEUTH

AFTER 1: Trees in your Schoolyard- Take Action!


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://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.