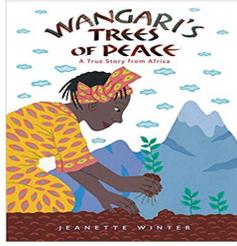


Wangari's Tree of Peace



By: Jeanette Winter

Essential Question for Consideration:

Overview:

In this lesson, participants will reflect on a special tree in their life. They will identify key vocabulary necessary to understanding the different parts of a tree. Participants will then use the parts of the tree to reflect on their lives. This activity was designed by *Connections* facilitator Emily Archer.

Materials:

- Pen or Pencil
- Paper
- *Tree Parts Diagram** (See below lesson plan)
- *Tree of Life Worksheet** (See below lesson plan)

***If there is no access to a printer, view the resources online and complete the tasks orally or written on a separate piece of paper**

Activity:

- 1.) Instruct the participant to think about a special tree (or forest) in their life. Use the questions below to encourage the participant to reflect on the tree, either through writing, drawing, or discussion.

Where is the tree? Why is it special or important to you? What does that tree look like? Feel like? Smell like? In different seasons? Do you have a special memory of that tree?

- 2.) Encourage the participant to share their responses.
- 3.) Explain to the participant that they will be reading a book about the true story of Wangari Maathai. *Wangari's Trees of Peace* by Jeanette Winter will show Wangari's peaceful efforts to save trees and empower women in Kenya.
- 4.) Give the participant the **Tree Diagram Worksheet**.

- 5.) Have the participant label the parts of the tree correctly using the provided words. Assistance may be required depending on ability level. *Further discussion of this worksheet could include the function of each tree part.*
- 6.) Then give the participant the **Tree of Life Worksheet**.
- 7.) Explain to the participant that they will be using this tree drawing to reflect on their own lives.
- 8.) Have the participant consider the prompts below to fill in words in the roots of the **Tree of Life Worksheet**.

Roots: *Where do you come from? What are the roots of your life? Where does your power, strength, inspiration, or hope come from? Write words in the roots. Possibilities:*

- *Your country, or birthplace--village, town, city*
- *Members of your family, teachers, friends*
- *Your faith, traditions, education*
- *Someone or something that makes your roots strong, gives you strength or inspires you*

- 9.) Have the participant share their responses.
- 10.) Repeat this activity using the prompts below to fill in words in the branches of the **Tree of Life Worksheet**.

Trunk and Branches: *Who are you in the world? What do others see? How do you show your power, strength, vision, passion? Write words in the trunk and branches. Possibilities:*

- *Your name*
- *Words that describe you*
- *Something good you have done – for family, friends, neighborhood, country, etc.*
- *Something good you can do -- for family, neighborhood, etc.*

- 11.) Have the participant share their responses.
- 12.) Read/Listen to *Wangari's Trees of Peace* by Jeanette Winter.
- 13.) Ask the participant to share their reactions to the story or share their favorite page from the book and why.
- 14.) Prompt the participant to return to their original drawing or writing about a special tree or forest in their life. Have the participant reflect on the questions below orally.

After reading Wangari's Trees of Peace--How would you protect that special tree or forest in your life?

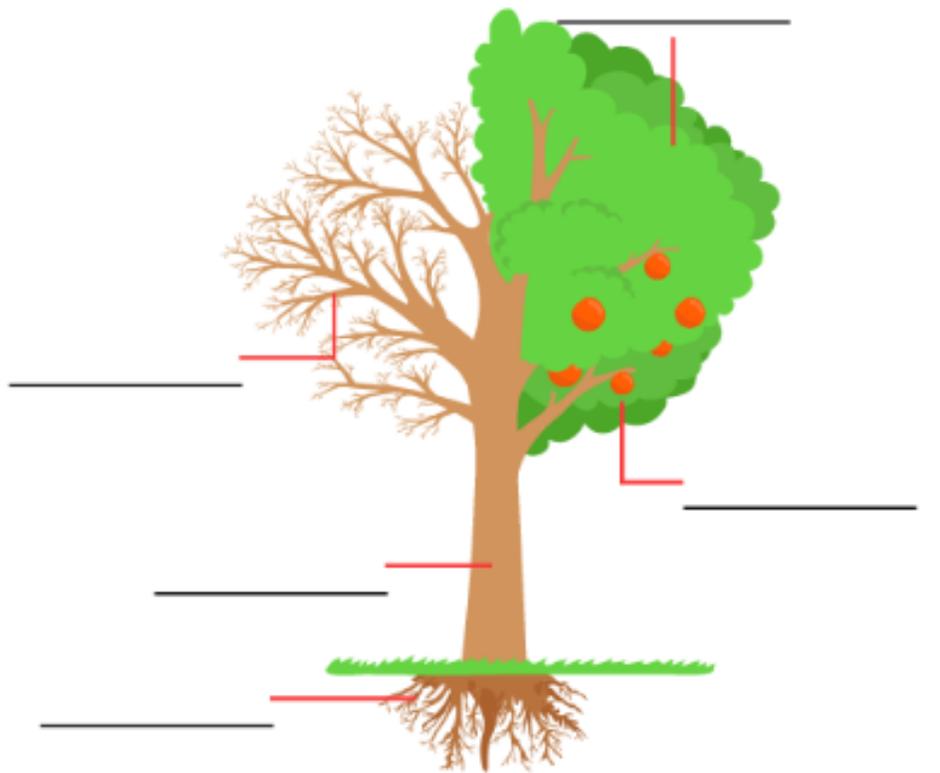
<https://www.nhhumanities.org/wangaristreesofpeace>

Tree Diagram Worksheet

Courtesy of [Primary Leap](#)

Label the Parts of a Tree

Below is a picture of a tree. Use the words from the word bank to help you label the parts of the tree.



Roots

Fruit

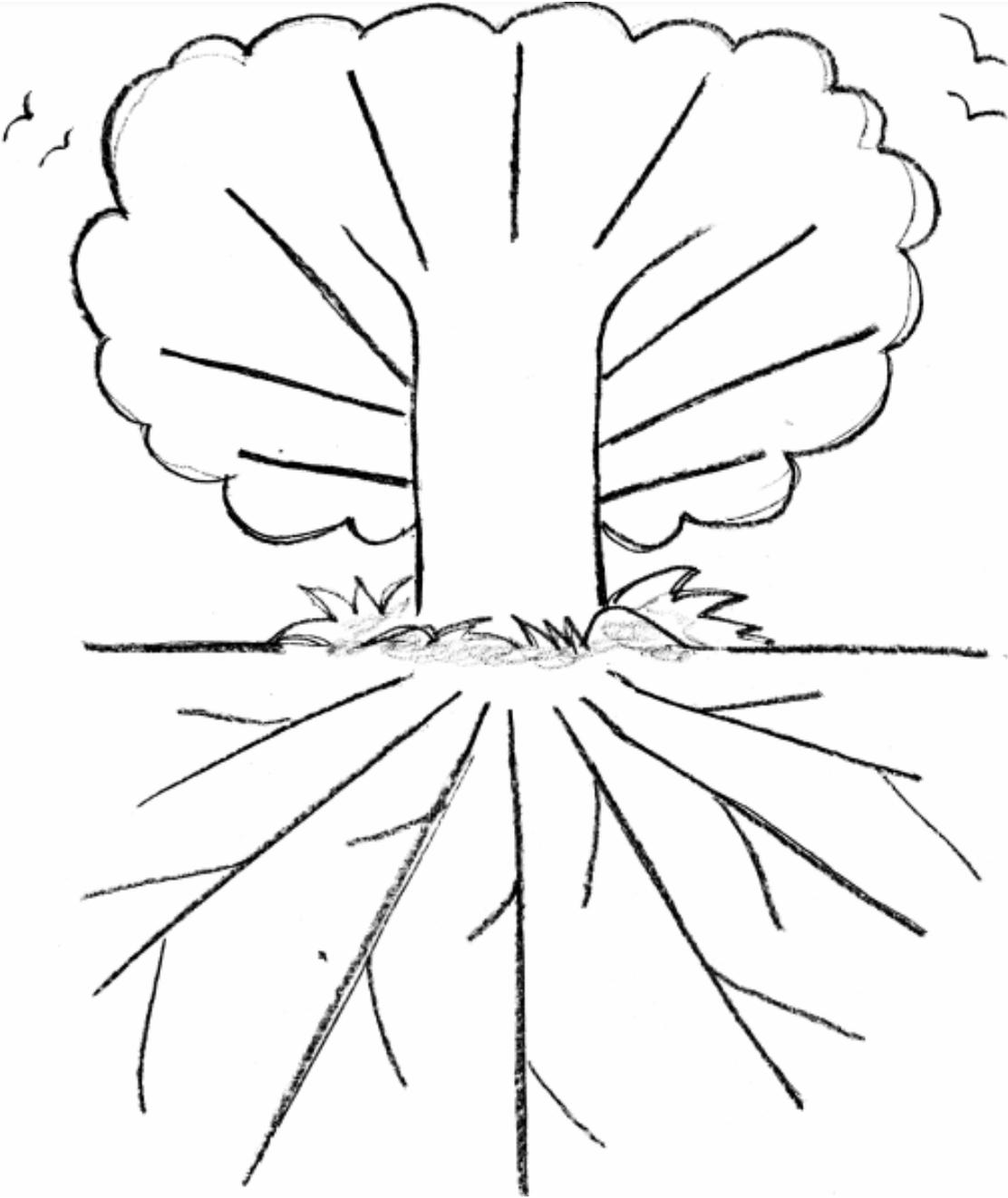
Leaves

Trunk

Branch

Tree of Life Worksheet

Courtesy of Emily Archer, Connections Facilitator



Additional Activities:

Discussion:

- How do we know that Wangari is brave?
- Why are trees important?
- What have you accomplished this week to help our planet?

Connections:

- Imagine you are Wangari and, plant a tree (or a few).
- Wangari is a woman who inspires many because she was brave, courageous, and stood up for what she believed in. Make a picture and/or write about an inspiring woman in your life . Why does she inspire you?
- Learn more about Wangari's life by watching this [short documentary](#).
- Make a collage using the warm colors of Africa (red, orange, yellow) for a background with watercolor paint. Tear small pieces of construction paper to collage a tree on top of the painted background.



<https://sailawaystory.com/2018/05/23/wangaris-trees-of-peace/>