



Editor's Note: What do scientists do? Not all scientists climb trees like the amazing treetop explorer Nalini Nadkarni. But all scientists ask questions, observe, make guesses, and record what they find. I hope this issue inspires your young scientists to do the same. There is so much to discover! I'm thrilled that we'll be spending this year discovering together.

—Erin Kelly

Reading Objective: Students will identify steps scientists use to conduct investigations.

Next Generation Science Standards:

Practice 3: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations

K-ESS3-1: The relationship between animals and plants and where they live

1-LS1: The survival needs of plants and animals

Vocabulary: scientist, rainforest, observe, record

Fun Facts to Share

- ★ Nalini designed a treetop explorer Barbie that looks like her. She did it to get kids excited about treetop science.
- ★ To climb tall trees, Nalini invented a tool that shoots ropes up to high tree branches. That lets her pull herself up!

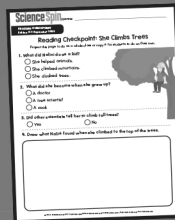


Attention, Teachers!

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VIDEOS

SKILL SHEETS



Hands-On STEM Activity

Be a Scientist: Observe a Tree!

Materials: A tree you can observe, pencils, clipboards, copies of the skill sheet. (Optional: hand lenses)

Overview: Kids become tree scientists like Nalini as they observe a tree and record what they see.

Directions:

1. Before you leave the classroom, tell students they'll go outside to be tree scientists like Nalini. Remind kids that Nalini **observes** trees to learn about them.
2. Give each student a clipboard, a pencil, and a copy of the skill sheet. Head outside and find a tree.
3. At first, students can just stand in front of the tree and soak up impressions with all their senses.

4. Now make specific observations: Is the tree large or small? What are the leaves like? How about the bark?
5. Look for signs that animals live in the tree. Do students see a bird or insect, or maybe a nest or hole where an animal might live?
6. Record observations on the skill sheets. If there's time, kids can share findings with others—real scientists do that too!



Email the Editor: sciencespink1@scholastic.com.

COURTESY OF NALINI NADKARNI (BARBIE);
HRYSCHYSHEN SERHII/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM (CHILD)

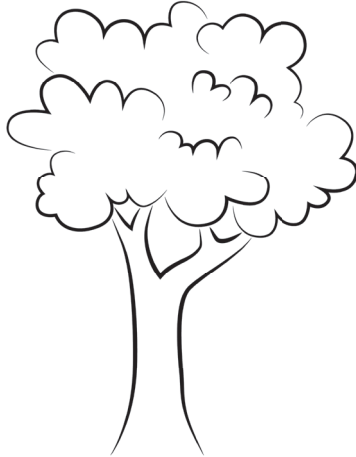


My Tree Observations

The size of my tree is:



Small

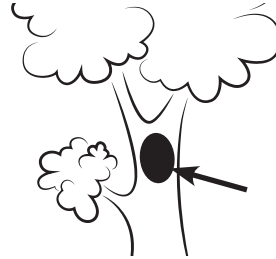


Large



medium

Does your tree have a hole?



yes

no

I think an animal lives in my tree.



yes

no

maybe

Does your tree have leaves?



yes

no

I also noticed this:

Does your tree have bark?



yes

no