

MCAD
COMMONS

Shirin Neshat

Tooba _____

Pre-School and Elementary-level Study Guide

In Partnership With

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Have the children describe the types of trees they've seen. You may prompt them by asking questions describing a tree, such as:

1. Where did you see the tree?
2. What was the texture of the tree?
3. How tall was the tree?
4. What colors were the leaves?
5. Did the tree have any fruits or flowers?
6. How long has the tree been in that area?

Show the children an illustration that points out the parts of a tree, such as this one: https://static.abcteach.com/free_preview/p/parts_of_a_tree_rgb_p.png. Discuss each part and their functions and uses.

Have them draw trees, perhaps a tree that they have seen before, or a tree that they have imagined. They may use the leaves they collected from the ground to decorate their trees. Encourage them to play with colors, materials, textures, and size.

Ask the children to share their work with the class and describe why they chose certain colors, textures, materials, or shapes.

Discuss why trees are important and the different ways trees help other living things. You may also discuss different ways in which trees are harmed (<https://www.precisiontreemn.com/tips/13-things-that-can-harm-trees-that-you-didn-t-know.html>). They can go to parks and see how trees are taken care of. How can we protect trees?

While watching Shirin Neshat's video installation Tooba, ask them to take note (either mentally or by writing it down on a piece of paper) of 1) character/s in the video -- is there more than one character? What do they look like? What are they doing? 2) setting - where is the video set? What time of day/night is the video set? 3) action - what is happening in the video? Who is doing the action? Why is the action being done?

Have the children share their observations and the stories they have created out of their observation. Share with them the idea of shelter as exemplified by Tooba in the Koran.

Have the children read “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein (or any similar story). Have them recall any parts of the video installation that are similar to the story. Ask them questions such as:

1. What was inside the tree in the video?
2. What were the objects given by the tree in the story?
3. Do you think the tree in the video gives the same things as the tree in the story?

Have the students conceptualize a campaign that teaches people about the importance of taking care of our environment, and the ways in which we are damaging it. Introduce the idea of a carbon footprint and have the students design posters and slogans that speak about the ways people can get involved and how they can reduce their carbon footprint.

Invite a speaker who is knowledgeable about key issues when it comes to the environment and sustainability. Ask them to speak about the dangers of deforestation or pollution, and what the students can do to help.