



# Arbor Day Bookmark

## Grade: 3-5



**Purpose:** Students will create a bookmark to celebrate Arbor Day.

**Background:** In 1970, Arbor Day was officially recognized nationwide thanks to President Richard Nixon. Arbor in Latin means “tree”. This day is a celebration of planting, caring for, and preserving trees. In the United States, it is celebrated on the last Friday in April.

**Florida Forestry Facts:** (2017 Statistics):

- Florida’s forest industry contributes \$25 billion to the state’s economy.
- Florida’s forest industry helps provide more than 124,000 jobs.
- 17 million acres of forestland cover almost half of Florida’s total land area.
- Almost 2/3 of the forestland is privately owned.
- Ten counties are economically dependent on the forest industry.
- Additional information:
  - <https://www.flforestry.org/resources/2017-economic-impact-study/>
  - <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/the-history-of-arbor-day>

**Materials per student:** strip of white cardstock paper: 3” x 8½” or 2” x 6”, crayons, colored pencils, pencils with erasers: 0.3 x 9 x 3.8 inches (for fruits and flowers), beginner pencil: 7.5 x 2.5 x 0.75 inches (for leaves), paint choices – green (leaves and/or limes), red (flowers and/or apples), orange (oranges), yellow (lemons), pink/purple (flowers), optional: stickers of apples, oranges, acorns, flowers, lemons, limes, leaves, etc.

### Activity:

1. Carefully cut the eraser of a Beginner Pencil (7.5 x 2.5 x 0.75 inches) in a pointed elliptical shape to resemble a leaf (mango, oak, lemon, orange, lime, etc.).
2. Place paints on 8” plates or in small plastic cups for each group to share.
3. Observe trees in nature.
4. Pass out materials to each student. Paints, crayons, and colored pencils can be shared.
5. Draw a tree on the cardstock.
6. Color the tree trunk and branches brown.
7. Using paints, just dip the eraser side of the pencil in the paint and stamp on the paper.
8. Option: Use crayons, colored pencils, paints, or stickers to decorate the tree with leaves, fruits, and/or flowers.
9. When it’s dry, write “Arbor Day” and the year on the bookmark.

