

Scope + Sequence: Take Root, Branch Out | Primary

Recommended for Grades 2-3

Lesson name	Lesson Summary	Learning Cycle
Introduction	- This lesson introduces students to the ThinkGive project. - They use hands-on observation and the read-aloud <i>A Tree Full of Kindness</i> to explore how trees can inspire care for ourselves and others. - Then they create name drawings and add them to the Tree Bulletin Board. Core Competencies: Self-awareness: Identifying emotions Social awareness: Empathy Social awareness: Interconnectedness	THINK: Students explore how trees help the world, ways they can be kind to people, places, and things around them, and how small, kind actions can make a big impact. GIVE: Start noticing kind actions—big or small—around you. Next time, we'll share what we saw. REFLECT + SHARE: N/A. In the next lesson, students will reflect and share the kind actions they saw happening around them.
You Are Strong Like a Tree	- Students explore the many strengths of a tree and use this metaphor to reflect on the unique skills and character traits within themselves and their peers. - They learn that some strengths are easy to see, while others are less visible but equally important. - Then they act out their strengths in a game of charades. Core Competencies: Self-awareness: Accurate self-perception Self-awareness: Confidence Relationship skills: Effective Communication	REFLECT + SHARE: What kind of actions have you noticed since the last lesson? THINK: Students identify their own strengths and recognize them in others, exploring how diverse abilities—seen and unseen—can make a group or community stronger. GIVE: Notice one or more of your strengths. Give yourself a compliment and pay attention to how that makes you feel.
Leaves of Change: Growing and Learning	- Students reflect on ways they have changed over the past year. - They share their reflections with peers as they walk a “stepping stone” path. - Then they recognize that, like trees, growth can be visible or invisible and unique to each person. Core Competencies: Self-awareness: Accurate self-perception Relationship skills: Effective Communication Responsible decision-making: Curiosity	REFLECT + SHARE: What strength did you notice in yourself since the last lesson? THINK: Students reflect on how they've changed over the past year—in visible and less obvious ways—exploring why growth matters and how it can look different for everyone. GIVE: Notice one way you've changed or grown. Maybe you learned something new, tried something new, or did something that felt a little brave. Then take a moment to smile and celebrate yourself!
Family Roots of Support	- Students use movement to explore the importance of tree roots and connect this idea to how people need support. - Through a charades game or worksheet, they reflect on their family and chosen family. - Then they identify who supports them and how, and consider ways to show appreciation. Core Competencies: Self-awareness: Identifying emotions Social awareness: Gratitude Social awareness: Interconnectedness	REFLECT + SHARE: Write or draw the change you noticed about yourself since the last lesson. THINK: Students explore who they consider family or chosen family, how those people support them, and ways they can show appreciation in return. GIVE: Show appreciation for a family or chosen family member who supports and helps you.
Helping Our Family	- Students explore balance through movement, noticing how their arms help them stay upright. - They play a game to model how tree branches support a tree in the wind, similar to how arms help support the body. - Then they brainstorm ways they support their families, recognizing that their efforts help keep their families strong—like branches on a tree. Core Competencies: Social awareness: Interconnectedness Relationship skills: Interdependence Self-management: Goal setting	REFLECT + SHARE: Describe how you showed appreciation for a family member or chosen family member since the last lesson. THINK: Using trees and branches as a metaphor, students explore how families grow stronger when everyone contributes—reflecting on ways they already help and new ways they can try. GIVE: Take action to help your family. You can do something you've done before or try something new.
Share Your Shade	- Students observe and brainstorm how trees share with the world. - They play a Four Corners game or watch a read-aloud that highlights different ways to share kindness. - Then they reflect on why it is important to share kindness in different ways. Core Competencies: Self-awareness: Accurate self-perception Relationship skills: Relationship-building Self-management: Personal agency	REFLECT + SHARE: Describe the action you took to help your family since the last lesson. THINK: Through the lens of how trees share with the world, students explore different ways to share—things, ideas, help, and time—as an act of kindness. GIVE: Share your things, ideas, help, or time with someone—just like a tree shares its shade.

Be a Friend Like a Tree	- Students learn how trees support and care for one another. - They complete a worksheet to explore how they can be good friends in similar ways. - Then they share their ideas through freeze-frames or discussion. Core Competencies: Social awareness: Empathy	REFLECT + SHARE: Write or draw what you shared with someone since the last ThinkGive lesson. THINK: Students explore how to show kindness to friends through everyday actions, and how those actions can shape how others feel. GIVE: Take action to care for a friend—just like trees share and care for each other. Relationship skills: Interdependence Self-management: Personal agency
Talk Like a Tree	- Students explore the meaning of "communication" and discover that trees communicate differently from humans. - They learn that people communicate through many methods, including spoken language and body language. - Then they deepen their understanding through an interactive game where they act out different communication styles across real-life scenarios. Core Competencies: Social awareness: Perspective-taking Social awareness: Examining norms Relationship skills: Effective communication	REFLECT + SHARE: Describe the action you took to care for a friend since the last lesson. THINK: Students explore what communication means, the many ways people do it, and how it affects those around them. GIVE: Practice communicating in a kind way. You can use your words, your face, your body, or a combination of all three!
Communities All Around	- Students explore what it means to be part of a community by examining a forest ecosystem, where plants, animals, and fungi depend on one another to thrive. - They identify the different communities they belong to and consider the roles people play within them. - Then they use a freeze-frame activity to reflect on ways to support, appreciate, and contribute to the communities they are part of. Core Competencies: Social awareness: Systemic influence Social awareness: Interconnectedness Relationship skills: Interdependence	REFLECT + SHARE: Write or draw how you communicated with someone in a kind way since the last lesson. THINK: Students explore what community means, the different forms it takes, and how to notice and appreciate the helpers within them. GIVE: Notice the communities you are part of and the people who help in them. Choose one helper and show them you appreciate them.
Branch Out!	- Students explore the idea that humans can "branch out," just like trees, and that one way to do so is by showing kindness to someone new. - They reflect on how it might feel to reach out—or to be the new person. - Then they practice through role-play or a worksheet, imagining real interactions and considering how both sides might feel. Core Competencies: Social awareness: Empathy	REFLECT + SHARE: Share the community member you noticed and appreciated since the last lesson. THINK: Students explore ways to be kind to new people, the positive things that can come from reaching out, and who in their community they might connect with. GIVE: Try branching out by showing kindness to someone new. Notice how your small action impacts their day—and yours. Relationship skills: Relationship-building Self-management: Risk-taking
Be an Earth Ambassador	- Students explore how the Earth cannot ask for help the way people can. - They use a freeze-dance activity to identify Earth's problems and explore ways to help. - Then they act as Earth ambassadors by creating a "Help Wanted" sign from the Earth's perspective. Core Competencies: Social awareness: Empathy	REFLECT + SHARE: Write or draw about someone they branched out to and how they showed that person kindness since the last lesson. THINK: Students explore how the Earth needs our help, why it's our responsibility to notice, and the many ways we can care for and protect it. GIVE: Notice something the Earth needs help with and take one action to help. Responsible decision-making: Advocacy Responsible decision-making: Critical thinking
Wrap-Up	- Students recognize that trees care for others even when nobody is watching, and that they can be kind in the same way. - They write or draw what they're taking away from ThinkGive and how they'll continue taking kind actions moving forward. - Then they reflect on what can happen when more people choose kindness. Core Competencies: Self-awareness: Confidence	REFLECT + SHARE: Share the Earth problem you noticed and the action you took to help since the last lesson. THINK: Students reflect on their ThinkGive journey and explore how to carry its ideas forward—caring for themselves and others even when nobody is watching. GIVE: Take a moment to appreciate all the small, true, and brave actions you've taken throughout ThinkGive. Just like trees do when nobody is watching, let's keep making a difference, one action at a time! Self-management: Personal agency Responsible decision-making: Critical thinking