

Did you know?

Exposure to forests decreases mental fatigue by relaxing and restoring your mind as well as providing a sense of security.

1 Before your begin ...

How are you feeling right now?











Write about what's on your mind today?



- Find a comfortable place outdoors to sit or walk near trees
- Take a deep breath and follow these steps to activate your senses. Answer to yourself or use the journal pages.

Where are you? Become aware.

- What does your space look like? What kinds of trees are near you? Do the trees provide shade?
- Is the space busy? Are there lots of things moving around you? Are there things standing still?
- Zoom in. Focus on what is immediately in front of you. Observe it, study it. What do you notice?





Close your eyes for 10 seconds. Open them.

What do you SEE around you?

- What is the first thing you see when you open your eyes?
- Look at the ground. Look at the sky. Look at the colors on your tree. Do your eyes feel different as you focus on certain objects?
- Notice the colors around you. What colors are your tree? Are the leaves bright and full? Do you see new growth on the tree?
- Focus your vision. What is the smallest thing you can see near you?
 - Is there anything smaller than that?





Close your eyes and take a deep breath.

What do you HEAR around you?

- What sounds can you identify while your eyes are closed? Name the sounds. Can you hear the wind in the trees?
- What direction are the sounds coming from? Cover one ear with your hand and listen. Now the other ear. How are the sounds different?
- Focus your hearing on one sound at a time. Listen only for that sound. How long does it take for other sounds to fade away?
- Can you hear yourself taking a breath?





Breathe in deep and exhale three times.

What scents can you identify?

- What does the air smell like? Can you smell the trees? The grass? Are there flowers?
- Take two more deep breaths. Do the scents in the air trigger any memories?

What do you FEEL around you?

- What textures are around you? Do all the trees have the same texture? The grass?
- Can you feel the sun on your face? Does your skin feel different when you step under the shade of a tree?





- Look around you and find something you can reach out and touch. Can you find something soft? Something rough?
- Find a place to stand or sit beneath a tree and look up at the branches. What do you feel while standing beneath the tree?

Reflect.

- How are the things you saw and felt today different from the things you see and feel on a typical day? How do you think trees help us?
- Think about how you felt before you started. How are you feeling now?































