

# PLUGGED IN FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

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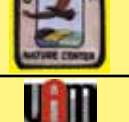
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 **South Coast Railroad Museum**  
805-964-3540; [www.goletadepot.org](http://www.goletadepot.org)

## This Month's Theme: Art Inspired by Trees

All through human history and all around the world, trees have been important to humans. They have served as shelter for people and their animals, produced lumber for building houses and ships, and they are the sources of many of the fruits and spices

that we use on our tables. Throughout the ages, they have also provided inspiration for artists and poets, and they even give us charcoal with which to draw. Below are three activities to help you explore the art and beauty of trees.

### Nature Journal: Rubbing Nature the Right Way

By Holly Cline, Wildling Art Museum



Carefully fold 3-4 sheets of computer paper in half. Staple along the crease.



Leaf rubbings work best if you use a hard surface under the leaf.



Hold your paper securely against the tree to make a bark rubbing.



Rubbing carefully will bring out the leaf shape and veins.



Decorating the front cover is a good way to finish the Nature Journal.

### Painting with Words: Let's Write a Haiku

By Sally Isaacson, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Haikus are short Japanese poems that have only three lines. The first and last lines each have five syllables and the middle line has seven syllables. Here are a few haikus that I was inspired to write while thinking about trees. Find a beautiful tree, or a photo of a tree and try to write your own Haiku.



1 2 3 4 5  
The cottonwood tree  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
Glow's gold in autumn sunlight.  
1 2 3 4 5  
See its leaves drift by.



Under the big oak  
A squirrel chews fresh acorns.  
The weather turns cold.



After the big wind  
The branches are bare  
once more -  
Dark, without its leaves.



Up from the tree roots  
The cicadas climb again.  
Songs from the tree tops.

### Three Trees in One: Drawing Conclusions

By Liz Gaspar, Santa Barbara County Parks

You are going to draw the same tree three different times during the day. Use a new piece of paper, the same size, for each drawing.

Now, go outside and find a tree you like to look at. Try to find one that you can see the sky behind, so you can see its outline. Before you draw the tree each time, look at the color of the leaves and how the light hits them. Look at the trunk and branches. Do you think the tree will look the same throughout the day?

1) First, sit down in the morning and draw the tree or just a part of it. Color it if you want to. Include the canopy (the tree's crown of leaves, if it has any), the branches, and the trunk (if you can see them through the leaves).

2) Second, draw the tree again in the afternoon, when the sun is high in the sky.

3) Third, sit down at dusk and draw the outline of the same tree. Pay special attention to its shape. Did you notice it before?

4) Fourth, hang your three trees on a wall next to each other. Does it look like the same tree? Did you notice anything different in your second tree that you didn't see the first time? Did you notice features of its shape at dusk that you didn't notice in daytime? Did your third drawing look like the tree at all? Did you notice how the light changed the way the tree looked? Things don't always appear the same when you see them over and over again.

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[www.wildlingmuseum.org](http://www.wildlingmuseum.org)

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