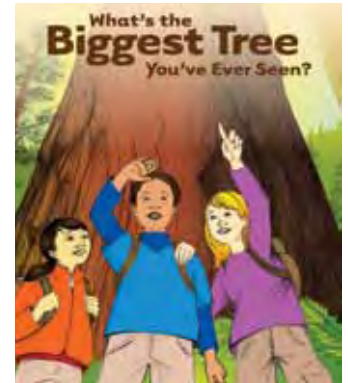




The giant sequoia is the world's most massive tree and one of the oldest. *What's the Biggest Tree You've Ever Seen?* introduces students in kindergarten through second grade to giant sequoias and offers ideas for exploring and taking action to protect these unique trees. This teacher's guide suggests ways to use the booklet in your classroom.



Pre-Study

Determine what students already know about giant sequoias. Show them a picture of a giant sequoia (visit SaveTheRedwoods.org/PhotoLibrary) and ask:

- What words would you use to describe this tree?
- How might a tree be able to grow so big?
- What's the biggest tree you've ever seen?

Apple Tree 

10-Story Building 

Giant Sequoia 

Coast Redwood 

Instruction

After reading the booklet, help students find answers to their questions about giant sequoias. Go to SaveTheRedwoods.org, or visit the school or local library.

Introduce the vocabulary words appearing in bold in the booklet (listed below), and then play a game of charades, with groups of students acting out the words.

trunk the main stem of a tree

bark the hard covering on the outside of a tree

evergreen a plant that does not shed its leaves for winter; this means the plant can make food all year



community a group of plants and animals (and people) that live in the same area

seed cone a hard, woody shell produced by some trees to hold seeds

soil dirt in which trees and other plants grow



Teachers, please send us feedback about our materials.

E-mail Education@SaveTheRedwoods.org, or join us on [Facebook.com/RedwoodEducation](https://www.facebook.com/RedwoodEducation).

Activities

So Big. Measure the circumference of the largest giant sequoias as described in the Explore activity on the second page of the booklet. Have students choose and use a variety of standard and nonstandard units to measure the distances (meters, kids, backpacks and so on). Make a class graph showing how big giant sequoias are in each of these units. [Mathematics]

Tree Walk. Take students on a tree walk. Have students look for animals and other plants that live in or near each tree. Help them identify each tree and the animals and plants that live nearby, or ask a naturalist to accompany you on your walk. Have students share their ideas about how and why animals and plants live together. [Science]

Community Mural. Make a class mural on butcher paper, comparing the giant sequoia community to the students' community. On one half of the mural, outline several sequoia trees; on the other half, outline several buildings. Have students draw elements of each community, such as chickarees and snow for the sequoia community, or a school and neighbors for the human community. [Science, Social Science, Art]

Our Favorite Trees. Ask students to think of a tree that has a special meaning to them, like a grandparent's tree or a favorite climbing tree. Have each child write a story or draw a picture about what makes that tree special. Bind the pages together to create a class book to read aloud. [English Language Arts, Social Science]

OK Sequoias Collages. Read to the class Carin Berger's *OK Go*, which uses fanciful collages to illustrate the effects of some of our actions. Help the class list things people can do to help giant sequoias, then use the ideas to create rhymes like in the book (such as "Recycle, Michael"). Provide scrap paper and other collage materials to illustrate the rhymes in the style of the book. [Art, English Language Arts, Social Science]



Resources

Visit our Redwoods Teacher Tool Kit at **Education.SaveTheRedwoods.org** for these great additional resources:

- Photo Libraries
- Redwood Transect (a field-based activity)
- Reading List



Wrap-Up

Use the following questions for discussion or as writing prompts to help students express what they have learned:

- How do communities help both you and giant sequoias live?
- Why is it important to save giant sequoias?
- What is something you, your family or our class could do to help sequoias? Encourage students to pledge to help sequoias: **SaveTheRedwoods.org/pledge**.

Standards

Sample standards addressed by the booklet and the suggested activities include:

Common Core State Standards (CoreStandards.org)

English Language Arts
Grades K-5: *Reading Standards for Informational Text and Foundational Skills, Writing Standards.*

Mathematics
Grades K-2: *Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Measurements and Data.*

California Standards

Science
Grade K: *Life Sciences 2a, 2b, 2c.*

Grade 1: *Life Sciences 2a, 2b, 2c, 2e.*
Grade 2: *Life Sciences 2a, 2f.*

National Standards

Science
Grades K-4: *Content Standard C Life Science, Content Standard F Science in Personal and Social Perspectives.*

Geography
Grades K-12: *Physical Systems Standard 8, Environment and Society Standard 14, and Resources Standard 16.*



WALK AMONG GIANTS™

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