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| About this Resource:  *This text set centers around the topic of a high-quality read aloud anchor text, in order to build students’ knowledge and vocabulary. Anchor texts are a part of Student Achievement Partners’ Read Aloud Project and full lesson plans are hyperlinked. Each Related Text is a suggested lightweight resource that connects to the topic of the read aloud and builds student knowledge and vocabulary. Also included are high-interest, topically related Optional Supporting Resources and Writing/Culminating Tasks in varied genres. Suggested resources are free or almost free (requiring a teacher license or sign on) and can be used as read aloud texts or for small group or independent reading depending on their complexity. All are intended to be optional resources for the classroom and teachers are encouraged to modify, adapt, or supplement these text sets with related resources. Text Sets are intended to support approximately two weeks of instruction. For additional suggestions for use, read this blog post:* [*https://achievethecore.org/aligned/reading-to-learn/*](https://achievethecore.org/aligned/reading-to-learn/)*.* |

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| **Key Content (Synopsis of two weeks)** | |
| Read Aloud:  Are Trees Alive?  <http://achievethecore.org/page/2601/are-trees-alive> | **Synopsis of Text:**  Through the use of simple language and vibrant illustrations, "Are Trees Alive?" shares details about the structure, functions, products, and seasonal changes of trees. This information is made comprehensible to young listeners by comparing these attributes of trees to humans. |
| Related Text 1:  Which Tree?  <https://www.raz-plus.com/books/leveled-books/book/?id=2898&lang=English> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**  What do all trees have in common? They all have leaves! But those leaves can be very different. In *Which Tree?,* students get a closer look at many kinds of trees and their leaves through extraordinary photographs with repetitive sentences and high-frequency words. |
| Related Text 2:  Why do Leaves Change Color?  <https://www.raz-plus.com/books/leveled-books/book/?id=2108&lang=English> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**  Nature is dazzling in the fall season with its colorful array of leaves. *Why Do Leaves Change Color?* explains the science behind this amazing transformation (the cycle of trees making food). Lovely photographs emphasize the beauty of trees and their foliage, and illustrations help clarify the scientific concepts. |
| Related Text 3:  About Trees  <https://www.raz-plus.com/books/leveled-books/book/?id=891&lang=English> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**  *About Trees* is an informational text that introduces readers to basic concepts about trees, such as their parts, characteristics, and life processes. The two main kinds of trees, deciduous trees and conifers, are described and compared. |

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| **Optional Supporting Resources** | |
| Learning About Trees  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abVvZLyZAIg&t=87s> | **Description/rationale for inclusion:**  In this short video, trail guide Teresa D’Anna shares ways to identify different types of trees—by looking at the branches, the leaves, and the seeds. |
| The Tree Guide  <https://www.arborday.org/trees/treeGuide/> | **Description/rationale for inclusion:**  Whether you’re deciding on a tree to plant in your yard or looking for more information about one you already have, you’ve come to the right place. This tree guide is a wealth of information on height and spread, soil and sun requirements, leaves, history, wildlife habitat and more. |
| **Writing/Culminating Tasks** | |
| Text Type 1: Informative | **Description of task:**  After reading the texts in this set, think about what you have learned about trees. Draw and write to teach your reader. You might include information about the parts of trees, different kinds of trees or what happens to some trees during the four seasons. |
| Text Type 2: Narrative | **Description of task:**  Imagine you are an animal that lives in a tree. Draw and write a story about the animal and where it lives. Include the sequence of events that take place including what the character sees and does in the tree. |
| Task Type 3: Research | **Description of task:**  Trees are all over the world. Find a type of tree to learn more about. After you research, draw and write explaining what the tree is like. Be sure to describe the parts of the tree and what makes it unique.  *Teacher note: This task can be completed as a group research project with teacher support. Consider using this resource to learn more about evergreen or tropical trees:* <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/plants/trees/> |

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