

**Title:** Tree Tender Activity

**Authors:** Carol Goldenberg

Allison Bordini – [abordini@ufl.edu](mailto:abordini@ufl.edu)

Florida Museum of Natural History – University of Florida

**Abstract:**

In the film, ***Tree Tender***, the tree of life is explained. The Tree of Life demonstrates that all life, both extinct and extant, are all related by common ancestry. Relationships among different species are examined to show how life is dependent upon other species. Current problems with extinction are discussed using examples. Why the tree of life is important to us as well as all life is demonstrated. This activity is meant to get students thinking about the world around them and what is happening. This activity is meant to educate students the current status of life on Earth and promote optimism on our ability to find solutions for the future.

**Learning Objectives:** At the end of this activity, the students will be able to:

- a. Understand the relatedness of life on earth
- b. Understand the effect our actions are causing to life as we know it
- c. Connect a problem through a solution through biological clues
- d. Understand the fate of our future if we do not act
- e. Critically think of ways we can help the planet support life in the future

**Timeframe: 1hr 15min**

Finding their partner of the ***Tree Tender*** game takes about 10 minutes

***Tree Tender*** movie and answering questions takes 15 minutes

Discussing the ***Tree Tender*** movie questions could take 10-15 minutes

Making a poster 15 minutes

Gallery Walk 15 minutes

Presentation of the poster and responses 15 minutes

**List of Materials:**

<https://www.treetender.org/>

***Tree Tender*** movie questions

***Tree Tender*** Game Cards

Large Paper & Markers

**Procedure for Instructor:**

- Print out the ***Tree Tender*** cards in the appropriate numbers needed for the number of groups
- Hand out the ***Tree Tender*** cards as students walk in
- Copy the questions to hand out to the students
- Go to <http://www.treetender.org/> and show students the movie
- Students should jot down short answers to questions for discussion
- After the movie, discuss the questions
- Have the students find their partner that has the matching ***Tree Tender*** card
  - Cards have either a problem or a solution
  - Students with the problems find the student with the matching solution for their problem
- Give them 15 minutes to discuss their cards and make a poster of their situation and ideas
- Allow 15-20 minutes for a gallery walk and have students add ideas to other's posters
- Allow 15 minutes for students to talk about their poster and the other ideas that were added

- Assign for homework: <https://www.treetender.org/about> to look up other ideas of how they can help the planet and design an idea we could do as a class for the year
- Next class discuss the ideas and decide on a project and go from there

### **Student Instructions:**

- Get a card from the teacher and read it
- Answer the questions with short responses while watching the ***Tree Tender*** movie
- After discussing the movie find their partner that has the matching problem/solution for their card
- Make a poster stating: problem – suggested solution – another idea for a solution
- When everyone is done with their poster, walk around to all the other posters, brainstorm other ideas and write them on the poster
- Sit and listen as each partnership takes a turn presenting their problem, solution and brainstorming solutions

**Assessment Questions:** They are attached as a worksheet

### **Reference List:**

Become a Tree Tender (2017). Retrieved June 18, 2018, from <https://www.treetender.org/about>

Tree Tender. (2017). Retrieved June 18, 2018, from <https://www.treetender.org>

## Tree Tender Movie Questions for Discussion

<https://www.treetender.org>

1. What does the Tree of Life show? List all you can think of throughout the movie
2. What does the circle with the dot in the middle represent?
3. What is the benefit of having this tree? List all you can think of throughout the movie
4. List example of how organisms depend on other organisms.
5. How do habitats rely on organisms and their relationships?
6. Explain what is meant by Ecosystem Service and give an example.

7. What things are currently in serious danger on our planet?

8. How can small changes be devastating?

9. How can small changes result in large scale improvements?