

# Histortrees!

## **Grade Level**

1st - 5th grade

## **Time Frame**

1 - 2 hours

## **Curriculum Areas**

Social studies, history, art, language arts, reading comprehension

## **The Project**

Think about the trees we saw in the first activity. Who planted those trees? What did the neighborhood look like when those trees were planted? How has it changed? The City of Portland's Parks and Recreation Heritage Tree Program protects trees that are special for their "age size, type, historical associations and horticultural value." Do you know any trees that fit this description? This project will introduce historical knowledge and the concept of heritage trees.

## **Learning Objectives**

Develop of historical knowledge and thinking

Increase observation of local landscape

Increase ability to think about changes over time

Gain familiarity with heritage trees across the city

Develop of new vocabulary

## **Teacher Preparation**

Introduce students to the Heritage Tree Program. Become familiar with the reading activity and instructions for the Portland Heritage Tree Quest board game. **Materials to Print:** Heritage Tree word search, coloring pages, reading/comprehension activity, Portland Heritage Tree Quest game board and cards.

## **Materials**

Scissors, pencils, crayons, or markers.

## **Procedure**

This lesson begins with another brainstorming session. Ask the students to think about the trees they compared in the "Meet the Trees"

activities. Ask them how old they think those trees are. When do they think they were planted? Who do they think planted them? What do they think the neighborhood looked like when they were planted? Were there cars or did people ride around on horses? Were the roads paved yet? Can they imagine what Portland looked like 100 years ago? 200 years ago? Tell the students that they are going to be learning about heritage trees. Ask them if anyone knows what a Heritage Tree is. Ask them if they know what heritage is. Some words related to heritage are: tradition, history, historic meaning, or 'handed down from the past.' These words and phrases may help the students understand that heritage is something with historical value or historical meaning. Inform the students that there are hundreds of heritage trees in Portland. Can they think of any reason why a tree would become a heritage tree? Hint: A heritage tree is a tree that is special for its age size, type, historical associations and horticultural value. Ask the students if they have seen a tree in their neighborhood that fits that description (it doesn't have to be a heritage tree). To reinforce some of the new vocabulary they learned in this brainstorming session, an optional word search is included.

There are two coloring pages in this section of heritage trees. Have the students pick one (or do both). They can color and read about the tree to get an idea of what a heritage tree looks like and places they might be able to see one.

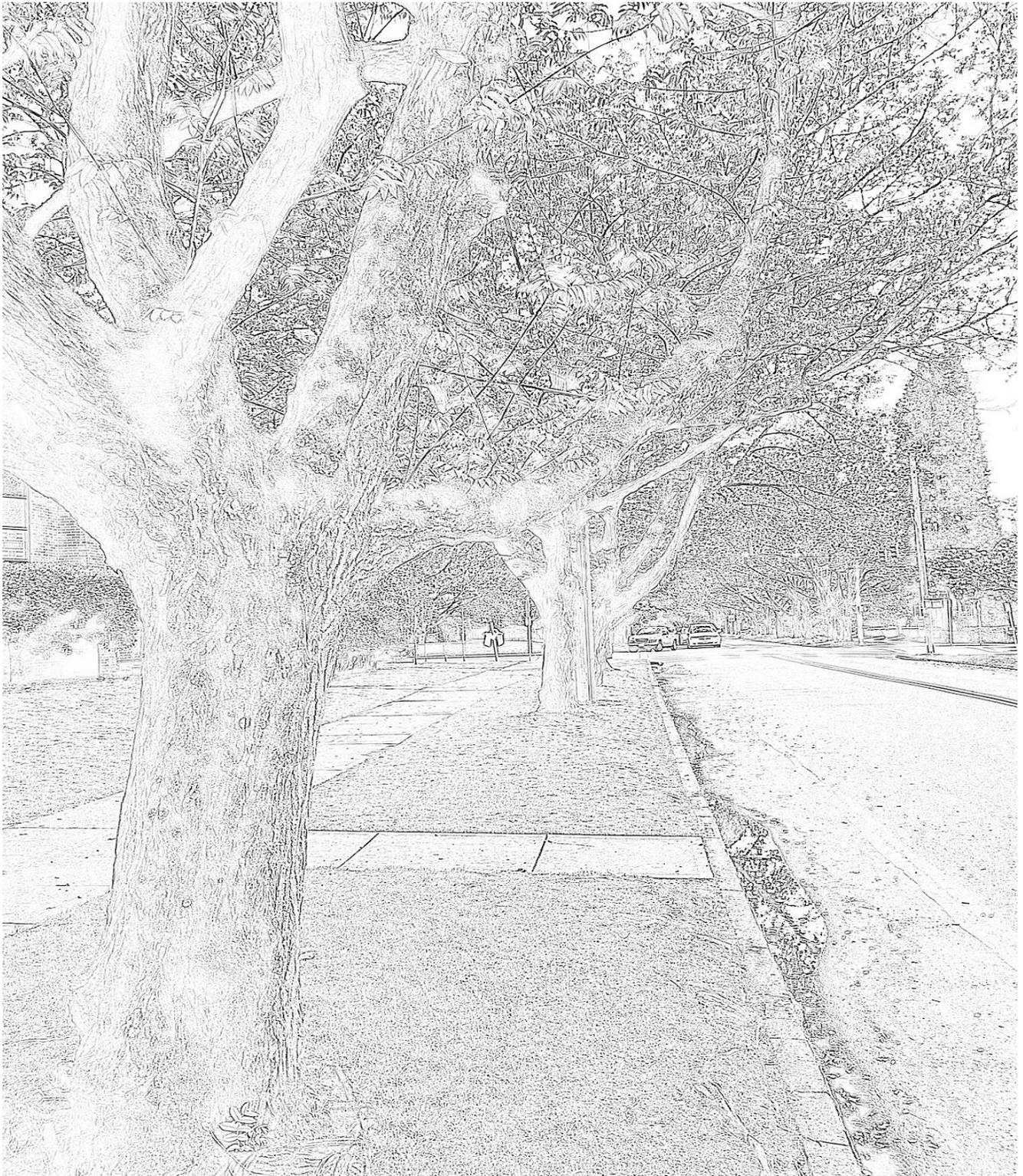
Complete the reading and comprehension activity before starting the Portland Heritage Tree Quest Board Game. The younger students may need help with some of the reading questions. If this is a mixed aged class, pair older students with the younger students so the older students can be "teachers."

Finally, play the game! Instructions are included below.

# Heritage Trees

D	E	A	S	R	M	O	D	T	A	A	R	N	E
I	D	H	I	S	T	O	R	I	E	S	N	O	N
H	E	E	O	N	P	I	S	S	H	D	T	E	I
T	E	T	A	R	O	O	O	M	A	U	I	T	T
S	R	R	A	M	T	H	D	O	I	P	A	H	N
L	D	A	I	N	E	I	R	O	T	N	A	I	G
S	O	A	D	T	I	A	C	T	S	I	N	S	I
T	P	M	E	I	A	M	N	U	M	R	R	T	T
A	T	E	T	G	T	G	O	I	L	G	R	O	P
O	I	R	C	O	E	I	E	N	N	T	D	R	D
U	O	I	U	I	P	N	O	A	E	G	U	Y	L
N	E	T	O	A	A	L	T	N	C	C	O	R	O
T	H	I	D	H	R	L	U	E	N	T	L	G	E
I	D	E	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	A	R	O	G

PAST  
PROTECTED  
HERITAGE  
HORTICULTURE  
SPECIAL  
TRADITION  
STORIES  
MEANING  
OLD  
HISTORY  
GIANT  
NOMINATE



**Heritage Trees #80-88:** The Caucasian Wingnuts at 15th and Knott are a close relative of the Walnut. They are a rare tree in Portland. They stand in front of Augustana Lutheran Church, which was built in the Irvington neighborhood in 1949. The church was not allowed to move in for many years because this neighborhood was strictly residential. That means only houses could be built in the neighborhood and no businesses were allowed. Neighbors didn't want the building in their neighborhood. Eventually the church was accepted, and today it holds an important position in the community, alongside the Wingnut. The Wingnut is a good example of a tree that can help replace older trees that die from disease.



**Heritage Tree #235** is a Butternut on the grounds of the Charles Jordan Community Center in North Portland's Portsmouth neighborhood. The tree towers over the single story wing of the community center with its 54 foot height and 65 foot spread. Its gnarled trunk, just over 11 feet in circumference, is a sign of the maturity of this 75-year-old tree. The community center building was originally built in 1942 as administration building with cafeteria and gymnasium for workers at World War II shipyards. The temporary housing units were removed in 1953, and its administration building became the University Park Community Center. In 2005, the Community Center was renovated and in 2012 renamed for Charles Jordan, Portland's first African-American City Commissioner and former Parks and Recreation Director.

## Historic Trees of Portland by Neighborhood

### Mt. Scott

*Black Walnut (Juglans nigra)*: Heritage tree #31 is a 90-foot-tall walnut that is almost a hundred years old. Walnuts were a popular tree to plant in early Portland and many people put them around their homes. Because of the favorable growing conditions in Oregon, walnuts were also planted in orchards, becoming a valuable crop for pioneer farmers. In 1907, to celebrate Washington's Birthday, the school superintendent O.M. Plummer donated 100 lbs of his own Black Walnuts to be planted at schools throughout Portland and the State, many of these trees are still thriving.

### Sellwood

*European Copper Beech (Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea')*: This old Beech tree, heritage tree #16, was planted in 1892 by Jasper E. Young as a gift to his fiancé Anna Louise Schuyler. Jasper was the manager of Sellwood Lumber and Manufacturing Mill. The Young's moved out of the house in 1916, but the Beech continued to grow into the large landmark it is today.

### Foster-Powell

*Pacific Madrone (Arbutus menziesii)*: Tree number 324 lies in the front yard of the woman who planted it back in 1957, after finding a seedling during a camping trip to the Olympic Peninsula. Madrones are native to the Pacific Northwest and were used by Native Americans for their berries and hard wood. While they can be found throughout the forests of the northwest coast, Madrones are not common in Portland, and this is the only example in the Heritage tree program.

### Powellhurst

*Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)*: Located in Powell Butte Nature Park, Tree number 260 is an exceptionally old Douglas fir that has stood for 300 years, making it twice as old as Portland. Although Portland lost most of its trees in its early years to clear land for building, the trees on Powell Butte were left to help protect a dairy farm at its top, and keep the cows from wandering off. When the city purchased it, they turned it into a park, preserving the trees for years to come.

### Lents

*Oregon White Oak (Quercus Garryana)*: This huge oak, tree number 272, also probably predates the city, and sits at the end of a street with the neighborhood built around it. Oregon White Oaks were very common in the Willamette Valley when Native Americans inhabited the area, as the oak's acorns often were able to survive the fires they regularly set to clear the brush and encourage these oak forests.

### Brooklyn

*Northern Red Oak (Quercus Rubra)*: These two trees, #175 and #176, were planted in Powell Park when the park was designed in the early 1920's. Between 1900 and 1925 most of the schools in Portland today were built, and near many of them parks were built as well for the neighborhood. These trees were part of an early effort by Portlanders to create a beautiful city with many parks and trees that would help balance all of the buildings and streets.

### Portsmouth

*Butternut (Juglans cinerea)*: Heritage tree #235 was planted 75 years ago at the beginning of World War Two outside of the

Charles Jordan Community Center. The community center and the neighborhood were built in the early 1940's to provide housing for the thousands of workers who had moved to Portland to work in the shipyards and other heavy industries supporting the war effort. After the war, this neighborhood and others helped Portland grow into the city it is today.

### St. John's

*Common Horse Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)*: This ancient Horse Chestnut, tree #322, is potentially older than the neighborhood around it. The early St. John's neighborhood was remote and made it difficult to commute, leading to the construction of the St. Johns bridge in 1931, and below it Cathedral Park which lies just a block away from the Horse Chestnut.

### Mt. Tabor

*Giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron giganteum)*: Tree #152 is a Giant Sequoia sitting atop Mt. Tabor in southeast Portland. The tree was most likely planted there when the ancient dormant volcano was turned into a park in the early 1900's. Before this the land had belonged mainly to the Prettyman family, descendants of Dr. Perry Prettyman who had settled the land in the 1850's. Portland's east side had

very few settlers until after the Great Burn of 1846; a fire which cleared most of the land from Mt. Scott all the way to the Columbia River.

### Laurelhurst

*Monkey Puzzle (Araucaria araucana)*: This heritage tree, #236, is one of the most striking types of trees in Portland with its scaly, cactus-like leaves. Also known as the Chilean Pine, the Monkey Puzzle was a popular tree to plant in Portland in the late 1800's. Seedlings of this tree were given away at the 1905 Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition, and while this tree sits on a house built a few years later in 1911, it is possible that it and many others around the city came from the Exposition.

### Nob Hill

*English Elm (Ulmus minor)*: This English elm, tree #36, dates from the 1890's, and is older than most of the houses surrounding it. It is the only Elm on the street to have survived the 1962 Columbus Day Storm. Elms were a very popular tree to plant in early Portland to provide shade, and today many of the older Elms which succumb to Dutch Elm Disease are replaced with resistant varieties to carry on the tradition which started in New England of Elm-shaded streets.

# What did you find out?

1. Which kind of tree was planted in schools across Portland?
2. Which tree was planted in 1892 by Jasper E. Young as a gift to his fiancé Anna Louise Schuyler?
3. How old is the English Elm Tree #36?
4. Which Portland Park is an ancient volcano?
5. Which tree has acorns that can survive hot fires?
6. When were most of the schools in Portland built?
7. What year was the Charles Jordan Community Center building built?
8. Which tree came from a seedling in the Olympic Peninsula?
9. Which tree is twice as old as Portland? How old is it?
10. Which country did the Monkey Puzzle tree originally come from?

# Portland Heritage Tree Quest

A game for teams of two or more players, with each team ideally having two or three members.

**Objective:** The team wins the game when they have answered questions correctly and placed at least one tree cards in each of six rows and three columns. Here's an example of a winning scorecard:

**Start:** Place the board, scorecard, and tree cards (answer side down) where all players can see them. Use a small object for each player to use as token to move about the board. The youngest player on the team chooses the transit stop (yellow square with blue outline) where all teammates will place their tokens and begin play. The youngest player has the first turn, followed by the player to that person's left, and so on.

Each player may perform five actions during a turn. Actions are:

- Ride: Move along a purple MAX or orange bus line to the next transit stop (yellow square with blue outline).
- Walk: Move to a Heritage Tree location (green octagon) from the closest transit stop. Or, move from a Heritage Tree location to the nearest transit stop, or to another nearby Heritage Tree if it's closer than the nearest transit stop.
- Answer: at a Heritage Tree location, have a teammate find the matching tree card and read the question on the back.

If the answer is correct, the tree card is placed on the Scorecard over the rectangle for the Heritage Tree's species. If the player has not used all five actions for this turn, the player's turn continues.

If the answer is incorrect, the player's turn ends (the player can answer the same question to start the next turn).

Players continue to take turns until the team wins the game, or until time runs out.

	M 324 Madrone 	
		GS 152 Giant Sequoia 
Bnt 235 Butternut 		
DF 260 Douglas Fir 		
		BgM 295 Big leaf Maple 
	CW 80- 88 Caucasian Wingnut 	



BGM 295	Big leaf Maple	EB 54	European Beech	M 324	Madrone	OWO 19	Oregon White Oak	Pcn 194 195	Pecan
Bnt 235	Butternut	EB 312	European Beech	MP 236 237	Monkey Puzzle	OWO 179	Oregon White Oak	BW 31	Black Walnut
CH 322	Common Horsechestnut	EE 26	English Elm	MP 273	Monkey Puzzle	OWO 198	Oregon White Oak	SL 317	Silver Linden
CW 80- 88	Caucasian Wingnut	EE 36	English Elm	NRO 175	Northern Red Oak	OWO 259	Oregon White Oak	SO 238	Scarlet Oak
DF 260	Douglas Fir	GS 152	Giant Sequoia	NRO 274	Northern Red Oak	OWO 272	Oregon White Oak	WW 70	Weeping Willow
EB 16		Kat 160	Katsura						

<p>True or False: Portland's Pecan trees are popular because they produce many delicious Pecans.</p> <p>False, Pecan trees do not produce nuts in Portland's climate.</p>	<p>True or False: One of the oldest White Oaks in the city, this tree is probably 150 years old.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: This Madrone was planted by a young woman who brought the seedling back from a camping trip on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: This European Beech tree is older than the Portland State Library which surrounds it on three sides.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: This Bigleaf Maple was planted in honor of General Joseph Lane, first Territorial Governor.</p> <p>True</p>
<p>True or False: Black Walnut wood is excellent for building and woodworking.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: This native Oregon White Oak is between 200 and 300 years old.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: Monkey Puzzle trees have been known to live 250 years; these are about 100 years old.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: Early Europeans wrote on the wood and bark of beech trees, before the invention of paper.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: This Butternut tree is next to the Charles Jordan Community Center, a building originally built as part of housing for shipyard workers in 1942.</p> <p>True</p>
<p>True or False: The land for Peninsula Park was donated in 1909 by businesswoman Elizabeth Smith.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: The bluff on which this native Oregon White Oak resides dates back to the Missoula floods.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: This Monkey Puzzle tree was probably planted about 100 years ago, when the houses near it were built.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: This English Elm was planted about the time of the Revolutionary War.</p> <p>False, it was planted about the time of the Civil War, nearly 90 years later.</p>	<p>True or False: This Common Horsechestnut was about 70 years old when the nearby St. Johns Bridge was completed in 1931.</p> <p>True</p>
<p>True or False: Scarlet Oak trees are quite common in Portland.</p> <p>False, they are rare here, more commonly found in Southeastern United States.</p>	<p>True or False: This tree overlooks Swan Island, which was the site of Portland's first airport.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: Oak trees greatly benefit the environment; they reduce carbon dioxide, improve air quality and process stormwater.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: This English Elm was the only tree on the North side of Flanders to survive the 1962 Columbus Day Storm.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: The versatile and hardy Caucasian Wringnut makes an excellent street tree.</p> <p>True</p>
<p>True or False: Weeping Willows are thought to have originated in China, but modern plants are most likely hybrids.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: This tree was standing when Oliver Lent laid out the streets for the town of Lent, now Portland's Lens neighborhood.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: Northern Red Oaks are native to the Pacific Northwest.</p> <p>False, they are native to Eastern and Central United States.</p>	<p>True or False: This Mount Tabor Park Giant Sequoia is believed to be over 100 years old.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: The Douglas Fir is named for Stephen Douglas, who ran for US President in 1860 against Abraham Lincoln.</p> <p>False, named for David Douglas, a Scottish botanist.</p>
			<p>True or False: This Laurelhurst Park Katsura is one of the largest and oldest in Portland, believed to have been planted in the 1950s.</p> <p>True</p>	<p>True or False: This European Beech was planted in 1892, by Jasper Young for his soon-to-be wife, Anna Schuyler.</p> <p>True</p>

Portland Heritage Tree Quest  
Scorecard



EB 16 54 312	European Beech	M 324	Madrone	CH 322	Common Horsechestnut
BW 31	Black Walnut	EE 26 36	English Elm	GS 152	Giant Sequoia
Bnt 235	Butternut	WW 70	Weeping Willow	MP 236 237 273	Monkey Puzzle
DF 260	Douglas Fir	OWO 19 179 198 259 272	Oregon White Oak	SO 238	Scarlet Oak
NRO 175 274	Northern Red Oak	Kat 160	Katsura	BgM 295	Big leaf Maple
SL 317	Silver Linden	CW 80- 88	Caucasian Wingnut	Pcn 194 195	Pecan

