



# Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

Benchmark

Grade 3

Student Materials

## **Trees**

A tree is a tall plant that is made of wood. Trees can live for many, many years. A tree has roots, a trunk, branches, and leaves.

The roots are underground, but sometimes you can see them sticking out of the dirt. The roots help to keep the tree in place and they also get the food that the tree needs from the soil in the ground. The roots send the food to the trunk. The trunk is like a water pipe. It carries the food to the branches for the leaves.

Some trees never lose their leaves and their leaves always stay green. These trees are called evergreen. The leaves on most other trees change colors when the seasons change. In the autumn you will see red, yellow and orange leaves. In the winter, you will see a lot of trees without any leaves at all.

Leaves change colors because the tree does not get a lot of light from the sun. Trees need to save some food to live when there is not much sun and so they cannot give it all to the leaves. The leaves cannot live without the food and that is why they fall off.