



## Orchard Care: Pruning

**Grade: 6-8**

**Season(s): winter/spring**

### **Objectives:**

- Define pruning
- Identify branches that need to be pruned and why
- Create an informational brochure on pruning
- Prune trees in the orchard with guided help

### **Materials and Tools:**

- Pruning powerpoint
- Tracing paper
- "Pruning" tree handout
- chalkboard/chalk
- Paper (for brochures)
- Colored pencils/markers
- Magazines (for picture to cut for brochures, optional)
- Chalkboard and chalk

### **Before you Begin:**

1. This lesson will span 3-5 days depending on your students.
2. Make copies of pruning tree handout.
3. Contact Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project to arrange a pruning day with them in the orchard.

### **Opening Circle (10-20 min):**

*What is pruning. What do we know about it? Why do we do it? Why should we care?*

Provide full answer in paragraph/bullets below.

- Pruning is cutting unneeded branches off of our fruit trees
- We prune to keep trees healthy and to make room for larger fruit
- To prevent trees from getting sick, develop structure, provide more light, control size, increase fruit production

- We prune in winter or early spring when trees are dormant and dry
- We always sanitize our tools. If doctors were to use the same tools on every patient without sanitizing we would get sick every time we saw a doctor. Same for trees. They can get sick, and disease can be spread if we don't sanitize our tools.
- We should care because in orchards, pruning is essential to tree health and fruit production

**Procedure (~ 30 min):**

1. Present pruning powerpoint with videos (in the powerpoint) ( 15 ish mins)
2. After powerpoint pass out tracing paper and the “pruning tree handout”
3. Have students put the tracing paper over the tree and draw only the branches they plan on keeping
4. Have the original tree and the “pruned” tree glued side by side in their notebooks
5. On the side or underneath have them choose 3 branches they pruned and explain why those branches were chosen
6. As an exit ticket, have students tell you one reason why we should prune, or one type of branch we should prune as they walk out the door
7. Up to here should take a 50 minute class period
8. And option while they are working individually, or before they start working on the tracing pruning activity is to play the pruning game
9. Draw various crazy looking trees on the chalkboard and have students take turns “pruning” your tree by erasing branches.
10. You can begin the next class with this game as well as a fun review
11. If students did not finish pruning tree have them finish that
12. Students who are done can move on to the pruning brochure
13. The brochure can be done on printer paper or construction paper
  - Should be folded in 3rds
  - Have a title and picture
  - 3 subtitles for the 3 panels when opened up
  - Some examples for subtitles are - sanitation, when to prune, why we prune, what to prune
14. Making a brochure should take up about a whole class period. Students can draw pictures, use construction paper and also cut out pictures from magazines to use in their brochures. There should be a picture for each panel
15. After the 2 lessons, “pruning tree” and “pruning brochure” have students go outside and prune in the orchard with supervision

**Closing Circle (5 min):**

Check for understanding by asking students why we prune and what kind of branches we prune. What would happen in orchards if we didn't prune?