

Two Trees

Draw two trees, local shrubs, or plants from the schoolyard garden.

Draw one plant larger and taller than the other. Tell the students that these two plants are the same age.

Why is one bigger than the other? Listen to answers and assess background knowledge. Explain that many abiotic and biotic factors can affect the growth and survival of organisms. In the case of these plants, one may be shaded by a wall or taller trees of another species, the soil composition and quality may differ, water availability may differ, temperatures may differ, and the genes of each individual organism also affect growth.

