

The Twitter Tree

I have two additional entries for the register of trees - the Twitter Tree and the Bird Leaf Tree

The Twitter Tree is a tree in which a large colony of birds nestles for the night. At dusk, although no birds can be seen, they all twitter as they settle down for the night; giving the impression to an observer that the tree itself is singing.

The Bird Leaf Tree, conversely, has a complete covering of birds by day feasting on the fruit or flowers of the tree; giving the impression to an observer that the tree has foliage of birds.

1 Compare and Contrast

	The Twitter Tree	The Bird Leaf Tree
Birds visible?		
Birds Audible?		
Time of day most easily observed?		
Part of tree occupied by birds?		
Best methods to use to document the observation of the tree		

2. Document observations

Find an example of either a Twitter Tree or a Bird Leaf Tree and record your findings. What methods of recording are best suited to each type? (sound recording or video for Twitter Tree and photography or video for Bird Leaf Tree)

Identify the type of tree and the species of bird involved

Define the relationship between the birds and the tree. Which receives greater benefit from the relationship?

The various forms of symbiosis include the following

- [Parasitism](#), in which the association is disadvantageous or destructive to one of the organisms and beneficial to the other (+ -)
- [Mutualism](#), in which the association is advantageous to both (+ +)
- [Commensalism](#), in which one member of the association benefits while the other is not affected (+ 0)
- [Amensalism](#), in which the association is disadvantageous to one member while the other is not affected (- 0)
- [Neutralism](#), in which both organisms are unaffected (0 0)
- [Competition](#), in which both organisms are harmed (- -)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbiosis>

3. Dialogue : English translation of conversations in Twitter Tree

Using the guidelines for writing good dialogue

http://www3.baylor.edu/~Greg_Garrett/writing/dialogue.html

<http://teacher2b.com/creative/dialogue1.htm>

Write some of the evening conversations in the Twitter Tree

Discuss anthropomorphism

<http://anthropomorphism.org/index.html>

Reread the conversation you have written and decide what degree of anthropomorphism has been used.

4. Estimating the numbers of birds

Brainstorm

What methods could you use to estimate the number of birds in the colonies in The Twitter Tree and The Bird Leaf Tree? Encourage creative solutions.

Some possibilities

shake tree –count birds as they fly out

set up a long term video camera to record comings and goings

photograph one section, count birds and multiply by size of tree for total

would there be a way of sound recording the twittering and then break the sound down to individual voices?

How accurate would these methods be?

5. Topiary and Tessellations

Have fun with creating either

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topiary>

<http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s873118.htm>

<http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=howTo&p=HomeDecor/Topiary.html>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/16661/escher/tessellations.5.html>

<http://www.tessellations.org/tess-escher6.htm>

<http://www.tess-elation.co.uk/index.htm>

Consider combining the two either as a 2D illustration or a 3D model

