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ILLUSTRATOR:**

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Watch how the apple tree changes throughout the seasons as you count, tap, pat, rub, touch, shake, jiggle, or wiggle and turn the page.

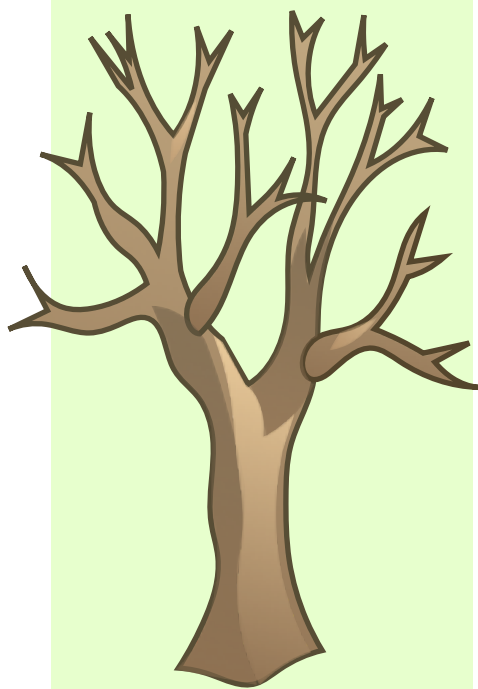
**Ages:** 2 to 5 years

**ATOS Level:** n/a

**Lexile:** n/a

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# Tap The Magic Tree

**How does an apple tree change throughout the year?**

**What is STEAM?** Learning through Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics. Through STEAM, children problem solve, innovate, create, and collaborate.

**STEAM Topics in this Book:** changes over time, counting, nature, seasons, plants, life science

**Activities To Do Together:** Tap the Magic Tree invites children to notice how living things change over time.

Before you read the book with your child:

- Ask your child to tell you how they've changed as they've gotten older or tell them about changes you've noticed. Maybe your child has grown a new tooth or gotten taller.
- Notice the different branches on the cover of the book. How are they alike? How are they different? Ask your child why they think the branches look so different.

While reading the book with your child:

- Have fun together following the directions in the book and predicting how the tree will look on the next page.
- Count leaves, bees, buds, apples, and birds.

When you have finished reading the story:

- Go outside and look at trees together. Talk about how the trees look compared to the trees in the story.
- Some trees lose their leaves when the hours of daylight get shorter and the temperature becomes colder. Deciduous trees lose their leaves. Evergreen trees have leaves all year long. Encourage your child to collect twigs and fallen leaves to create a mural or sculpture of deciduous trees in winter, spring, summer, and fall.
- Take a walk and collect different types of leaves. Notice the shapes of the leaves. Sort the leaves by size, shape, or color. Place a leaf underneath a white piece of paper and rub the side of a crayon over the paper. Notice the vein patterns of the leaves together and ask your child to describe what they see.



**Conversations During Daily Routine with Toddlers:**

1. Outside Time - Look at leaves together. Notice the similarities and differences in the leaves you find.
2. Snack Time - Serve a snack that grew on a tree: apples, oranges, pears, etc. Cut the snack into slices. Count the slices together before you eat them.
3. Art Time - Collect leaves together. Sort the leaves into groups of big, medium, and small leaves. Glue the leaves onto a pre-drawn outline of a tree. Talk about where the leaves are placed on the tree. For example: Small leaves at the top. What leaves are in the middle and bottom?
4. Discovery Time - Encourage your child to touch the bark of different types of trees. Talk about how the bark feels. Look for signs of animals and insects living on or near the trees.

**Questions for STEAM Thinking:**

1. How did the tree in the story change throughout the year?
2. What type of tree is this story about? Why do you think so?
3. What animals did you notice in the story? How do you think the tree is important to these animals?
4. What season are we in right now? How do deciduous trees look at this time of year?
5. Apples grew on the trees in this story. What else have you noticed that grows on trees?
6. The tree on the last page of the story has a nest, two birds, and three leaves. What do you think is going to happen next. Why?
7. What you can tell from looking at a deciduous tree?

**Early Math Project Resources:**

Visit [Tap the Magic Tree](http://countplayexplore.org/book/tap-the-magic-tree) (countplayexplore.org/book/tap-the-magic-tree) to find activities and related California Learning Foundations, Mathematics Standards, and/or Next Generation Science Standards for this book.

**Vocabulary**

**STEAM words found in the story:** again, breeze, bud, four, leaves, little, more, once, one, petals, snow, ten, three, tree, trunk, two

**Related STEAM words:** angiosperm, deciduous, evergreen, fall, gymnosperm, precipitation, seasons, spring, summer, temperature, weather, winter

**Words to build reading**

**comprehension:** bare, gentle, jiggle, patient, wait, whooshing, wiggle

**Related Books:** *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle; *Plant the Tiny Seed* by Christie Matheson; *Press Here* by Hervé Tullet

Click this link to the [World Catalog](http://WorldCatalog) or enter bit.ly/47DDRxC in your browser, to find *Tap the Magic Tree* in the public library.

