

SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

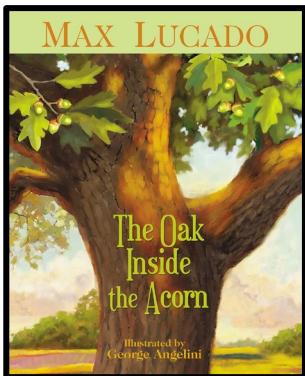


January 29, 2024

COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **February 13:** *Community Night ... Harkers Island Bridge Night @ 6:00 PM*
- **February 23:** *Winter Taste of Core Sound @ 6:00 PM*
- [Click Here for More Upcoming Events!](#)

Sound Reading Material For You and Your Child



The Oak Inside the Acorn

By Max Lucado

The story highlights the adventure of a sweet little acorn becoming a big, strong oak tree. Readers will cheer on the growing tree when he can't grow oranges like the orange tree or flowers like the rose bush. Children will read with wonder as the tree grows empty branches, and later, a very special purpose is revealed.

Pages: 48
Grades: K-3rd

You Been Here Long?

The familiar live oak tree, *Quercus virginiana*, in our yards took years to grow, with their many branches bending toward the earth before shooting upward. The live oak is one of the most majestic trees grown in our area.

The live oak is the hardest and most dense lumber found in all oak species. It can withstand saltwater without the salt eating away at its surface. So how old are some of our local beauties? To get an accurate estimate, mark a spot on the trunk about 5 feet from the ground. Be sure there are no knobs or bumps, and that the trunk is smooth around the circumference. Measure completely around the trunk and make sure the tape is level throughout.

The number of inches of circumference divided by pi (3.1416) gives you the diameter of the trunk. *For example, if the circumference is 200 inches, divided by 3.1416, the diameter is approximately 64 inches.*

While the number is easily found for most oaks, the live oak's growth factor remains an unanswered question. It is suggested that when estimating the age of a live oak tree, use the number 4 for the "best guess" factor. Multiply the diameter by this growth factor of 4. In the above example, $64 \times 4 = 256$ years old.

Growing conditions, air, soil quality, insect remediation and a host of other factors contribute to estimating the age of a live oak, and often it's difficult to get a tape measure around the trunk because of its variations in shape. Just know that the gnarlier the tree is, and the more limbs are coming off the trunk, the older it is.



a live oak in Atlantic (photo taken by Jodi Morris)

Spanish Moss

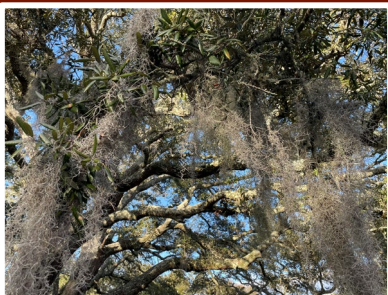
Spanish moss consists of one or more slender stems bearing alternate thin, curly, heavily scaled leaves that grow in a chain-like fashion, forming picturesque, hanging arrangements. The plant has no aerial roots and its brown, green, yellow, or grey flowers are tiny and discreet. It spreads both by seed and vegetatively by fragments that blow on the wind and stick to tree limbs or are carried by birds as nesting material.

Spanish moss is not technically moss at all. It is a bromeliad, a tiny epiphyte that clings to itself as it dangles from tree limbs, gulping moisture and nutrients from the air and rainfall. Bromeliads include plants like pineapples and succulents.

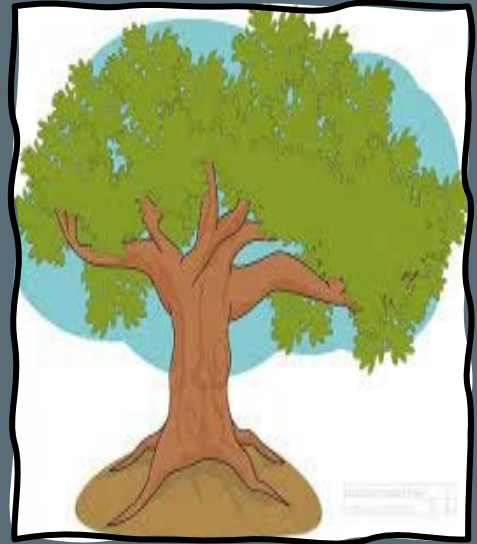
And just as Spanish moss is not truly moss it's also not from Spain! It is native to Mexico, Central America, South America, the United States, and the Caribbean. In the United States, it grows from Texas to Virginia, staying in the moister areas of the South. Its preferred habitat is a healthy tree in tropical swampland.

A common misconception about Spanish moss is that it is a parasite because it appears to grow on trees. However, it is not! Spanish moss doesn't put down roots in the tree it grows on, nor does it take nutrients from it. The plant thrives on rain and fog, sunlight, and airborne or waterborne dust, and debris.

Spanish moss on
Island Road



Printable Oak Tree Life Cycle Activity Set



*Click on the picture above
to access your Oak Tree
Life Cycle Activity set!*

It includes:

- *Life Cycle Posters
- *Sequencing Cards
- *Sequencing Cards
- *Non-Fiction Book
- *Sequencing Puzzle
- *Photo Cards