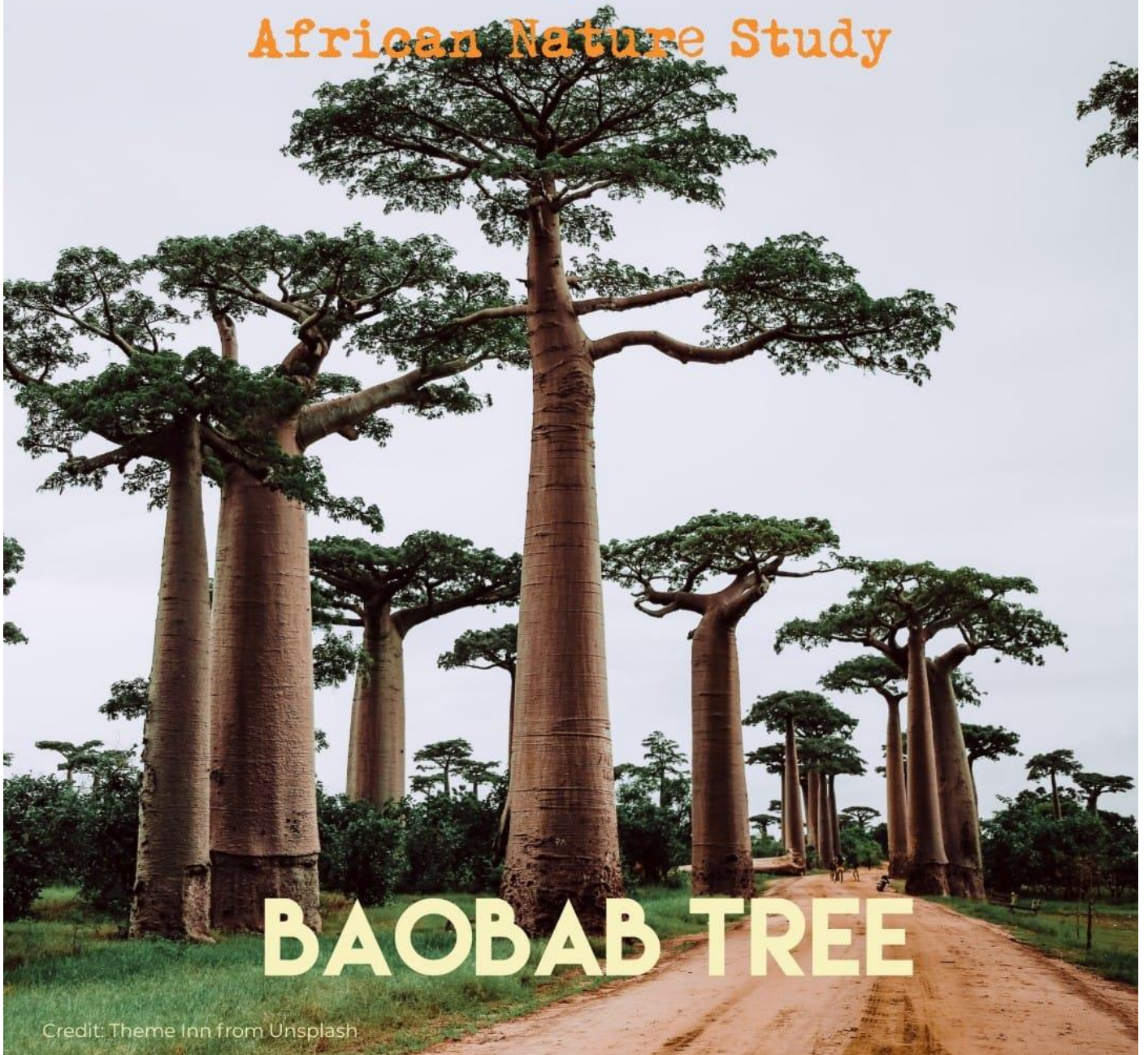


Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons
African Nature Study



Credit: Theme Inn from Unsplash

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First African Nature Study: Baobab Tree

Trees is a woody perennial plant, typically having a single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.

Baobab Tree

Scientific names: *Adansonia grandidieri*

The baobab is the national tree of Madagascar.

Adansonia grandidieri, sometimes known as **Grandidier's baobab**, is the biggest and most famous of Madagascar's six species of baobabs. They can reach 25 to 30 m (82 to 98 ft) in height and have trunk diameters of 7 to 11 meters (23 to 36 feet).

The baobab tree is a strange looking tree that grows in low-lying areas in Africa, Madagascar and Australia. It can grow to enormous sizes, and carbon dating indicates that they may live to be 3,000 years old. They go by many names, including boab, boaboa, tabaldi, bottle tree, upside-down tree, monkey bread tree, and the dead-rat tree (from the appearance of the fruit).

The cork-like bark is reddish brown to grey, soft and possesses longitudinal fibers. The bark is fire resistant and are used for making cloth, rope, weave baskets, mats & paper.

Leaves simple to digitate, with up to 9 green and glossy leaflets but usually 5. All baobab trees are deciduous, losing their leaves in the dry season, and remains leafless for nine months of the year. The leaves are an excellent source of protein, minerals and vitamins A and C. It is used as condiments and medicines.

The baobab's flowers are big and white and open at night and produce a pungent scent to attract the nocturnal bats to feed on their nectar. Its fruit can grow up to 30 cm (1 foot) in length, containing vitamin C and tartaric acid. When soaked in water it flavours a refreshing drink, or when ground up and roasted it can be used to make a drink similar to coffee.

The baobab tree is known as the tree of life. It can provide shelter, clothing, food, and water for the animal and human inhabitants of the African savannah regions.

Composer study

Maurice Ravel

Sunrise from Daphnis et Chloé

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBLdMySuaEg>

Something to watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5I7u5FMQxHA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I3yf0hyi24>

Artist

Errol Norbury <https://fineartportfolio.com/products/wildlife-artist-errol-norbury-giraffe-sunset-baobab-tree-en-400>

Sunset at Baobab Tree



Kim Paffen <https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/kim-paffen>

Sunset Avenue of the Baobabs Madagascar



Handbook of Nature Study by Anna Botsford Comstock:

pages 618- 689

Poetry

Wayne Visser

<http://www.waynevisser.com/poetry/baobab>

Baobab

A Tribute to Africa's Tree of Life

At the heart of the African plain
Stands a tree both old and sage:
A survivor of sunshine and rain
Silent witness to many an age

But this is no ordinary tree
For her trunk is hollow inside
And faithfully she keeps unseen
The secret of her native tribe

For her cave's a place of birth
A haven safe from danger
This womb of Mother Earth
Is Africa's child manger

The Baobab stands proud and strong
She serves her people as midwife
It's been thus generations long
She's Africa's great Tree of Life

By Wayne Visser © 2017

Materials:

Journals
Pencils
Watercolour
Eraser
Ruler
Brushes

Indoor or Outdoor activities:

Create a nature journal entry

Sketch Baobab Tree, fruit, leaves etc. on your journal and describe them.

Watch some educational video about Baobab tree and their diff species.

If you have Baobab tree around you, do some focused observations.

Nature Journaling:

Add the following in your journal:

Date

Time

Drawing

Your observations

Location

Weather

Words

Label the frog parts

Quotes, Poetry

Measurements

Scientific name

Painting & drawing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgAu7JkPqPY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9H7eaj5Qck>

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/draw-trees-video-workshop/>

Here's the video links of getting to know more about Nature journaling.

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/introduction-to-nature-journaling-video/>

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/getting-started-with-nature-journaling-video/>

References:

Wikipedia.org, Pza.Sanbi.org, Handbook of Nature Study by A. Comstock,

*Please do share on the Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons on the FB group your Nature journaling of your African Nature Study. Thank you all.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/798820646986484>

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