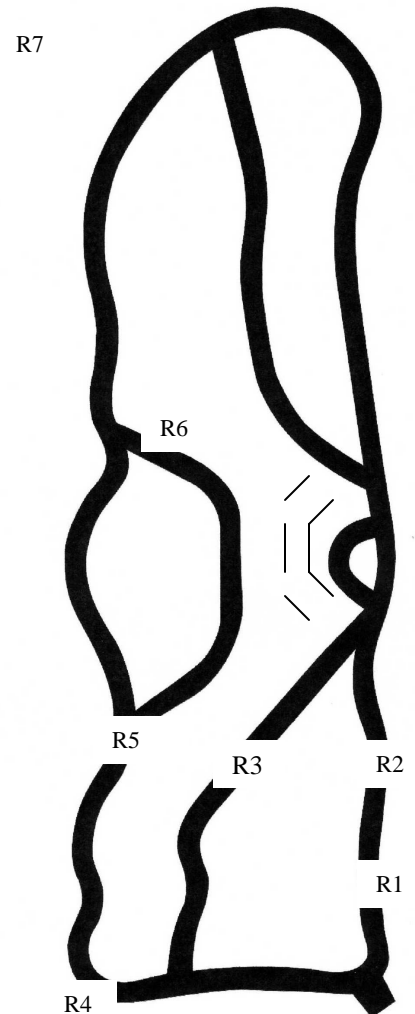


# Riddletime

Teacher Directions: DO NOT READ THESE ALOUD! Follow the map in order to solve the riddle at each station. When you arrive at the station, read the riddle from the tree and have the children solve it. Pull out the letter from your bag that is the beginning letter of the answer (example: pull out an E if the answer is Earth) and place it in the corresponding box on the answer template. The riddles will spell out the words elm tree and on the next page is an interesting history about elm trees to share with your students.

<p>1) I am an animal. I have no legs. I live in the dirt.</p> <p>What am I?</p> <p>Answer: Earthworm</p>	<p>2) I often fall. I can change colors. I hang on a tree.</p> <p>What am I?</p> <p>Answer: Leaf</p>
<p>3) I am made of dirt. I must be wet. I sometimes get stuck in your shoes.</p> <p>What am I?</p> <p>Answer: Mud</p>	<p>4) I have roots. I can be tall or short. I provide shade.</p> <p>What am I?</p> <p>Answer: Tree</p>
<p>5) I am helpful. I fall from the sky. I make things grow.</p> <p>What am I?</p> <p>Answer: Rain</p>	<p>6) I am a planet. I am your home. I have land and water.</p> <p>What am I?</p> <p>Answer: Earth</p>
<p>7) I am a tree. I used to grow everywhere. Then, many of me died. Here at South Frederick I still reside.</p> <p>What am I?</p> <p>Answer: Elm tree</p>	





## North American Elm History

In the southwest corner of the arboretum you will find a large American elm tree that was lucky to survive the deadly and terrible disease of Dutch elm disease in the 1930's. Hundreds of towns planted these trees along their city streets and they were eliminated by this disease within a decade. This infection wiped out tens of millions of American elm trees. This American elm tree lived because it was isolated from the other trees. This tree is over 100 years old and is about 75 feet tall.



# Facts about American Elm

- The American elm is a part of American history due to its North American Origins.
- Native Americans used American elm wood to make ropes, utensils and canoes that were used for traveling and for fishing.
- European settlers used the wood for wooden hoops and storage barrels which were an important to their way of life.
- American elm is still used today to make furniture like rocking chairs and other wooden products.
- The population of American elm was nearly wiped out when the Dutch elm disease was brought to America in the 1930's with a shipment of cargo from China.
- Over 50 years the disease was spread by beetles.
- Fully matured American elm trees can live as long as 300 years.
- American elm trees can grow over 115 feet tall and can have a diameter as large as 10 feet.
- The cooling effect of one urban elm tree is estimated to be equivalent to five air conditioning units.
- Fossil record show that elm trees first appeared in the Miocene period, about 40 million years ago.

American Elm  
(summer)



American Elm  
(fall)



Diseased  
American Elm

