

THINK LIKE A TREE * AIR * SOIL * WATER

Trees, without them we would not have oranges, apples or bananas

Or houses Or wooden shoes Or chairs Or medicine Or Life.

Without plants, and trees are plants, we would not be here on

EARTH.

Trees Breathe

In the leaves on a tree, water combines with carbon dioxide, an odorless gas that is everywhere in the atmosphere {when there is too much, it is called Climate Change} and with sunlight to make sugar. Sugar is food for the trees. During this process called photosynthesis, the leaves produce oxygen.

Oxygen and water evaporate through the leaves into the air – called transpiration {a big word} - which means how a tree breathes - and makes oxygen. We need oxygen to breathe. **And**, trees make oxygen for us.

THANK TREES!

TREES, ROOTS AND SOIL

Tree roots keep trees from falling down. The tree's roots grip the ground and anchor the tree, and stop erosion, which means roots keep soil in place. Roots preserve soil, they keep it to use later—so we don't use all the soil at once. Roots are like a bank for soil. Soil, which is filled with minerals and water, feeds each tree through the roots. The whole root system of a tree is often bigger than the tree branches and all the leaves.

TREES AND WATER

Did you know that 50 percent of a tree, which means half of every tree, is made up of water.

HOW DOES A TREE DRINK?

Water in the soil passes through the tree's tiny hair-like roots. It enters the bigger roots to which the tiny roots are connected and is carried up the tree's trunk all the way to the leaves.

Trees, especially forests--a lot of trees living together—like a village—play a big role in helping water to enter the ground and fill the water table – which is not a table at all and really more like an underground lake. The soil around and under the tree roots helps to hold the water so it can be absorbed and replenished in the underground lake—the water table. Trees are the Earth's sponges.

HOW MUCH WATER DOES A TREE DRINK?

A tree 100 feet tall has about 200,000 leaves, which is a lot of leaves. In one year a tree can drink 11,000 gallons of water from the soil and release it into the air as oxygen and water vapor. We cannot see oxygen and water vapor is a very fine mist that we mostly cannot see either.

Let's leave streams and river banks as natural as possible. When soil is undisturbed and covered with trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, and mosses, erosion is prevented. And, the EARTH IS HEALTHY AND HAPPY. We have air, soil and water.