



Day 17: A Celebration of Trees

Trees are very busy

Trees are busy creatures. Even though a tree looks like it's just standing still, there's a lot going on. Let's investigate.

"To really feel a forest canopy one must use different senses, and often the most useful one is the sense of imagination." - Joan Maloof

You can't look inside of the tree, so you have to use your imagination.

- The **roots** in the ground have tiny little hairs that are sucking up water and minerals from the soil. They are drinking! **Trees can drink up to 100 gallons of water a day.**
- That water goes up tubes in the tree's trunk called **xylem**. The tubes act like straws. It's very important that this water gets to the leaves.
- Now look at the leaves. What are they doing? **Well, they are making food for the tree!** The recipe is simple, but it's so incredible it's almost like magic.



A tree's recipe for food (a.k.a photosynthesis)

1. Grab the sun's energy using special cells in your leaves called **chloroplasts**
2. Add water from your roots
3. Breathe in carbon dioxide from the air using little holes in your leaves.
4. Put them together and make...

Sugar!!!! That's tree food.

Now that the tree has its own food, it can use that food to grow, make leaves, flowers, nuts and fruits.

Trees and me: a quick activity

The magic of trees doesn't stop there. Trees do so much for animals and people.

- Trees give animals and people food - **how many foods can you name that come from trees?**
- Trees give many animals homes - **what animals live in trees, can you name 10?**
- Trees give people wood - look around, **how many things can you see are made with wood?** I found over 50 (I got tired of counting!)
- **Take a deep breath** - trees give you, me and other animals oxygen.
- **Trees also clean the air, the water and soil** so our planet can be healthy.

Trees do all of that and more! Let's thank our tree friends!

"Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky." - Khalil Gibran

Poetree

Not only do trees do amazing things to help us live, they also inspire beautiful works of art. [This is my favorite poem about trees.](#)

Journal Prompt: Can you write a poem about a tree? Can you write it so that the shape of the poem is a tree? The next page has some examples for inspiration.

Share your Findings or Creations with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Tomorrow's Theme: Ants!

Time to explore!

Chris, Fellow Lover of Trees

