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
A TALL LONELY OAK TREE
WINDS HOWL
LEAVES SHAKE
ACORNS CLATTER
DOWN
TO THE DRY GROUND

Needles
I wrote a poem in the shape of a Christmas tree but then forgot to water it and only a few days later there were words all over the carpet.