

COMMUNITIES NEED TREES

Part 1: Trees are important for many reasons. Find out more by using the vocabulary words in this box to fill in the blanks in the paragraph below.

| Word Box | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------|------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|-------|
| vapor | oxygen | ecosystems | filter | remove | climate | shade | Earth |

Trees aren't just a great place for a picnic. They strengthen _____ by **stabilizing** the ground, providing _____, filtering water and air, and **reducing** _____ change. Tree **roots** grip the ground, **preventing** it from washing away during **rainstorms** or floods. In addition, as rain falls, the roots _____ **pollutants** from the water. As trees "breathe" through the **stomata** in their leaves or needles, they _____ **carbon dioxide** from the air, absorbing it and releasing oxygen. Excess water _____ is also **released**, cooling the air. Trees also provide _____ that cools the Earth, animals, and humans. Trees are a **vital** part of life on _____.

Part 2: Read the paragraph again. Find the words in **bold** and circle them in the word search right.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | V | I | T | A | L | A | F | G | Q | Z | C | U | R | P |
| E | E | B | E | Q | I | R | T | E | I | F | W | A | G | D |
| D | O | D | C | H | E | O | R | A | G | J | I | J | E | L |
| I | N | A | U | U | V | O | U | Y | M | N | Y | S | U | C |
| X | V | X | N | C | Q | T | W | K | S | O | A | D | G | T |
| O | P | N | U | V | I | S | Q | T | G | E | T | H | B | K |
| I | R | Z | E | F | M | N | O | N | L | Y | U | S | R | L |
| D | E | A | S | W | M | R | G | E | G | Q | K | R | A | V |
| N | V | A | X | F | M | I | R | Y | M | Z | H | X | V | Y |
| O | E | E | T | S | T | N | A | T | U | L | L | O | P | Y |
| B | N | G | Y | J | Z | O | G | Z | K | R | N | Z | A | V |
| R | T | S | K | S | H | M | H | Y | M | Y | P | K | T | S |
| A | I | H | U | F | O | H | X | L | B | I | U | N | O | K |
| C | N | S | T | A | B | I | L | I | Z | I | N | G | G | B |
| Y | G | S | P | R | U | G | R | F | W | A | Q | K | B | Q |



Families: Go for a walk and identify favorite trees in your community. You can use the fun Arbor Day tree identification tool found at www.arborday.org/trees/whattree/. But before you look up the trees, challenge yourself to name as many types of trees as you can.