

**5** Recycling paper products, planting new trees, and caring for the trees and forests in our communities will help preserve our environment and keep our water, air, and soil healthy and clean.

- Use the letters to the right to complete the sentences.

1. Just like humans, trees need \_\_\_\_\_ to survive.

**R T E W A**  
□ □ □ □ □

2. Trees lower air temperature by evaporating water in their \_\_\_\_\_.

**E L E V A S**  
□ □ □ □ □ □

**Extended Learning** Want to do more activities or learn more about trees? Here are a few suggestions:

- List ways you can conserve use of products made by trees.
- Sprout native tree saplings to plant in green spaces.
- Identify trees in your neighborhood with the help of <http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/content/howToID/>

## WHOLE EARTH HEROES

**Wangari Maathai**, founder of the Green Belt Movement and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, is this month's Whole Earth Hero. Maathai was born in Kenya, a member of the Kikuyu tribe. As a child, she learned the traditional wisdom that sustained the land around her village. In school, she studied biology and came to the US for college. When she returned to her native village, she was shocked at the destruction of the land she had loved as a child. Trees were cut down, soil eroded, water was gone or very dirty and people were starving. Drawing on both scientific and traditional knowledge, Maathai created the Green Belt Movement to restore the land and water by planting trees, millions of them in villages across Africa. The work restored sustainable communities and empowered the women who lived there. Wangari Maathai's story shows the power of thinking globally and acting locally. For more info visit: <https://www.greenbeltmovement.org/wangari-maathai/biography>



Photo © Patrick Walker/University of North Carolina

# Whole Earth Kids

## ACTIVITY BOOKLET

# TREES



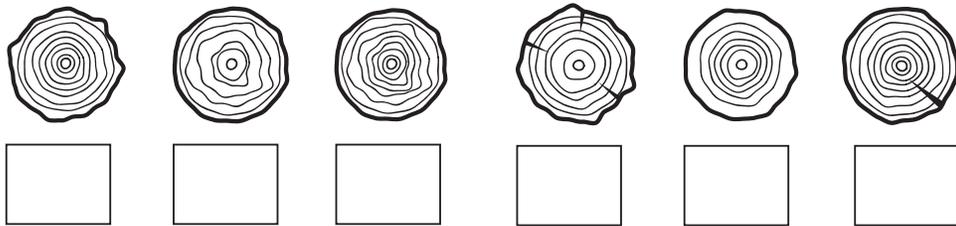
Our Whole Earth Kids program is a fun way to introduce kids to some of the building blocks of the natural world and our Whole Earth Heroes, who through their work help to make our world greener. The program is for children 12 and under. When your child has completed the Activity Booklet, bring it by your nearest Whole Earth store, take it to the register, and your child will receive a \$5 coupon that can be used in the store.

FOR STORE USE

**TREES** are among the largest living beings on Earth. They send their roots deep into the soil and spread their branches and leaves to the sky. A thick woody stem called a trunk joins the underground roots to the branches above. When we are enjoying the shade they provide on hot sunny days, trees are hard at work even though we can't see it. Tree roots help to hold soil in place and reduce erosion. Through a process called photosynthesis, trees use the the energy of the Sun to remove carbon dioxide from the air and transform into the oxygen that we need to breathe. Trees also provide food and shelter for many creatures including birds who build nests on their branches, mammals like raccoons that might live in a hollow trunk, reptiles and insects who hide amongst their leaves and, of course, humans! Apples, peaches, pecans and maple syrup are just a few of the foods that trees provide for us. They also provide us with wood and paper products of many types.

**1** Each year a tree adds a new layer and grows in circumference. We call these layers **growth rings**. Scientists can take a core sample of a tree and count the number of rings to determine its age. Trees are among the oldest living beings on the planet. A Bristlecone Pine in California named Methuselah is believed to be over 4,700 years old.

- Count the rings to see how old each tree is.



**2** Tree and plant leaves are the engines of **photosynthesis**. They are broad and flat and are able to soak up sunshine. The light is absorbed by a pigment that gives leaves their green color called **chlorophyll**. The energy from the sun is used to convert carbon dioxide and water into sugar and oxygen. The leaves then "breathe" out the oxygen and use the sugar for energy. One large tree can supply a day's supply of oxygen for about four people.

- Draw lines to the parts of the tree.



Roots  
Trunk  
Branches  
Leaves

**3** - Circle words you find on the puzzle.

U	R	O	S	A	P	K	W	G	E
E	O	A	K	E	T	D	O	D	P
L	O	B	P	I	V	R	E	A	A
C	U	A	A	A	F	A	E	S	P
Y	C	R	D	R	I	R	E	E	E
C	E	K	S	R	S	R	E	L	R
E	G	S	Q	U	I	R	R	E	L
R	F	C	K	E	U	B	B	P	C

-tree  
-air  
-oak  
-leaves  
-paper  
-squirrel  
-bird  
-bark  
-recycle

**4** Many animals live in trees and use trees for cover, like birds, squirrels, raccoons and deer.

- Color the picture below.

