

If You Were a Tree... What Would You Be?



We are lucky to live in an area that has so many beautiful trees. Not only are they wonderful to look at, trees play very important roles in our environment, they:

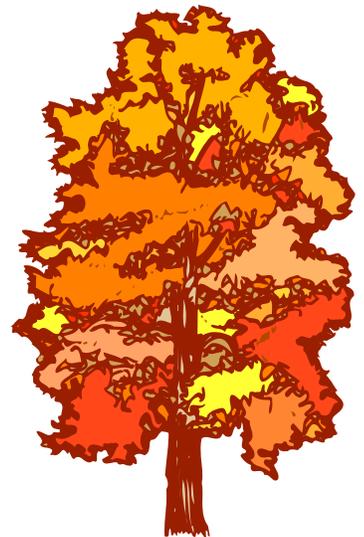
- Absorb carbon dioxide (what we exhale) and produce oxygen (the gas in the air that gives us life).
- Filter dust and smoke out of the air, helping keep our air clean.
- Reduce stormwater run off and help refill the aquifer.
- Help prevent erosion.
- Provide shade on hot summer days, and soften the wind.
- Provide wildlife habitat to many different creatures including fungi, insects, birds and mammals.
- Provide food for humans and wildlife.

Have you ever noticed that different types of trees grow in different areas? Trees have evolved to survive in different environments.

- Some trees like rocky soil. If you are in a rocky area you might find Lodge Pole Pine, Rocky Mountain Juniper or Black Locust growing.
- Some trees need a good soil that is full of nutrients. In this environment you will see White Oak or Dogwood trees growing.



- Some trees prefer wet areas, near a river, creek or lake, such as Quaking Aspen, Willow and Cottonwood.
- Other trees like dry places to live. Ponderosa Pine trees are a good example of trees that don't need a lot of water and like plenty of sunshine. These trees grow where the forest moves from shrub and grasslands.
- Some trees prefer to live in shady areas, such as Yew, Japanese Maples and Magnolias.
- Some trees can only grow in high elevations. You might see White Bark Pine or Sub-alpine Firs growing in the mountains.



Look outside. What types of trees do you see? Take a walk around your neighborhood or a local park. How many different trees do you see? Record the different types of trees you see (on page 3). Are their leaves changing colors? Are some trees growing in sunny areas? Did you see trees that are growing in shade?

If you could be a tree, what type of tree would you be and where would you live?

The Capitol Tree is from Washington State!

Each year the federal government chooses a national Christmas tree to put in front of the White House in Washington D.C. This year, that tree is coming from Washington State! It was chosen from the Colville National Forest, a two-hour drive north from Spokane.

The tree is an Engelmann Spruce, which is native to western North America. The Engelmann Spruce is also known as a White Spruce or Mountain Spruce. It is a conifer, which means it has needles for leaves and cones instead of flowers. And this evergreen keeps its needles all year. This tree grows anywhere from 82 feet - 131 feet tall. The tree that will be in front of the White House stands 88 feet tall! It's taller than 3 two-story houses on top of each other! Engelmann Spruces grow at high altitudes of 2,952 feet - 11,975 feet, which reaches the alpine tree line.

This year's Christmas Tree theme is, "Sharing Washington's Good Nature." It highlights our state's natural resources, trees, and people. Children from Washington State can create an original hand-made



ornament to hang on the national Christmas tree. If you send in an ornament, you will be entered into a drawing where the winner gets to travel to Washington D.C. to light the Capitol Christmas Tree with the Speaker of the House of Representatives!

For more information visit www.capitolchristmastree.com/ornaments.

Community Calendar:

- October 22 - Deadline for the Spokane Recycles poster contest. www.solidwaste.org
- October 26 - Fall Leaf Festival & Compost Fair at Finch Arboretum 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- November 11 - Celebrate America Recycles Day at Mobius Kids Admission fee
- November 15 - Reduce, Reuse & Recycle on American Recycles Day!

Colville National Forest Facts:

The Colville National Forest was created by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907.

This forest spreads over 1,100,000 acres of land.

Within the forest live many species of wildlife: grizzly bears, black bears, cougars, bald eagles, and more.

Over 10,000 years ago, Ice Age glaciers shaped the forest.



Caribou, a species of deer.

The last remaining herd of caribou in the U.S. lives in this forest. You may know them as reindeer.

Search for Names!

- Apple
- Ash
- Birch
- Cedar
- Cherry
- Chestnut
- Cottonwood
- Elm
- Fir
- Ginkgo
- Goldenrain
- Larch
- Maple
- Oak
- Peach
- Pear
- Pine
- Poplar
- Spruce
- Willow

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

Tree Tracking

List the different trees you saw when you looked outside or walked through your neighborhood or a local park.

A CrAzY Tree Maze!

Can you find your way through the maze?



Members can earn 5 points by completing each activity on this page!



EnviroKids' Club

EnviroKids' Club
c/o Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
3104 E. Augusta Ave.
Spokane, WA 99207

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Spokane, WA
Permit No. 722

**See inside for
Activity Details!**

Members can earn 5 points
by completing each special
EnviroKids' activity that is
marked with a gold star!

EnviroKids'... caring for the Earth

EnviroKids' Club provides its 200+ members with information and activities to explore aspects of the environment: air, water, weather, garbage and recycling, plants and animals. The Club is open to all Spokane County residents who are in grades K-6.

Club members receive a newsletter in the mail four times a year. The newsletter contains activities to complete and ideas for activities at home or in the community. Members who are interested can complete activities and/or participate in some of the events to earn points. Earned points can then be used to trade-in for prizes. **Members need to participate in at least one activity per year to receive newsletters.** For more information, visit www.spokaneenvirokids.org.

To earn points, mail your completed activities by December 31, 2013 to:

EnviroKids' Club c/o National Weather Service
2601 N. Rambo Rd. Spokane, WA 99224

Fill in this form with the activities page complete and send it back to us to earn your points! Do you have a friend or sibling who would like to join Envirokids' Club? Copy this page for them to send in and be added to our mailing list.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

My child has permission to participate in EnviroKids' Club activities that I accompany him/her to and permission is granted to use his/her photo that may be taken at such event, for promoting the Club (newsletter, flyers, ads, website, etc.)

Parent Signature. Please print name, then sign and date

EnviroKids' Club Partners: National Weather Service, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, Spokane Conservation District, Spokane County Water Resources, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, and Spokane Regional Solid Waste System.

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