

Record your answers here.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Try This



Did you know trees filter pollutants from the air? They also intercept storm water - preventing erosion of precious topsoil. They might even help save on your air conditioning bill. You can learn more about all the wonderful ecoservices trees in your yard provide by using online tools such as My Tree or iTree Design. More information can be found at: itreetools.org.

KID QUEST OBSERVING TREES



Why Do We Need Trees?

We need the oxygen trees produce when they photosynthesize. We also need the food, medicine and lumber that trees provide. Many animals need trees to hide in and to raise their young. All organisms need trees to prevent erosion, sequester carbon, and cycle nutrients. In this edition of Kid Quest, learn more about some of the amazing things that trees do for our planet.

TREE QUEST



HABITAT

Take a journey through your backyard or your neighborhood today. What creatures do you see scampering through the tree tops? Trees create a living habitat for birds, mammals, and insects. Animals can hide from predators in trees and build nests to raise young. Keep your eyes open for any nests you might see.

Write the name of the creatures on the back of this sheet.

BIODIVERSITY

Trees adapt to the environment in different ways. Deciduous trees change color and lose their leaves in the fall in order to conserve water. Evergreen leaves have a thick, waxy covering that protects them. An app called Seek by iNaturalist is a great tool to help identify trees.

Write the name of one deciduous tree and one evergreen on the back of this sheet.



NUTRIENT RECYCLING

Continue on. As you walk, look for fungi on trees. Fungi come in many shapes and colors. They are decomposers and serve an important role in ecosystems by breaking down dead or decaying organisms. As they do, nutrients are returned to the soil. Sometimes fungi look like mushrooms. Have you seen mushrooms pop up in your yard after a rain?

Describe the fungi you find on the back of this sheet.



POLLINATOR FOOD

Plants that produce flowers and seeds are called angiosperms. There are countless flowering trees. The timing of blooming sometimes matches when specific pollinators are around. The flower in this photo hosts a wide variety of pollinators including beetles, butterflies and bees.

Write the names flowering trees on the back of this sheet.

CARBON SINK

Have you ever seen a tree stump? You can tell the age of a tree by counting rings on stumps because trees grow an extra ring each year. Trees hold carbon in their biomass, keeping it out of the atmosphere. When trees die and decompose carbon is released in a slow and balanced way.

Guess the age of a tree you see. Write your guess on the back of this sheet.



SEED PRODUCERS

Trees have life cycles. They start life as seeds. They become seedlings, saplings and finally full-grown trees. Look around for different types of tree seeds or encasings. They come in many shapes and sizes. Perhaps you will find an acorn, a berry, a pinecone, a pod, a sweet gum ball, or possibly a maple helicopter.

Describe the seeds or seedpods you find on the back of this sheet.