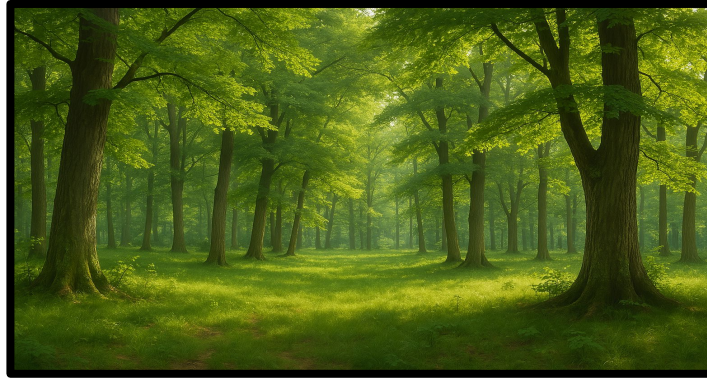


Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Academic Vocabulary

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Importance of Trees

Trees are not only beautiful to look at—they play an essential role in keeping the planet healthy. They provide oxygen for us to breathe and help clean the air by absorbing harmful gases like **carbon dioxide**. This process is called **photosynthesis**.

The roots of trees hold the soil together, preventing **erosion** and protecting the land from being washed away by rain or wind. Trees also provide habitats for many animals, including birds, insects, and mammals. Without trees, many animals would lose their homes.

In addition, trees help regulate the Earth's climate. Forests absorb and store **carbon**, which helps reduce the effects of climate change. But when trees are cut down, this carbon is released back into the atmosphere, making global warming worse.

Tree planting programs are a great way to help restore the Earth's forests. Every year, millions of trees are planted to help reduce **deforestation** and increase the number of trees in places where they are needed most.

Glossary

Carbon dioxide: A gas that animals breathe out and plants absorb to make food.

Photosynthesis: The process by which plants make their food using sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide.

Erosion: The gradual wearing away of land by wind, water, or other natural forces.

Carbon: A substance that is part of all living things and is stored in trees and plants.

Deforestation: The cutting down of trees for farming, logging, or development.



Name: _____

The Importance of Trees

1. What does the word *photosynthesis* mean in the context of the passage?

- A. The process by which trees grow taller.
- B. The process by which trees absorb water.
- C. The process by which trees make food using sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide.
- D. The process by which trees release oxygen into the air.

2. Which phrase best describes *erosion*?

- A. The cutting down of trees for development.
- B. The wearing away of the land by natural forces like wind and water.
- C. The creation of oxygen in the atmosphere by plants.
- D. The cleaning of harmful gases from the air.

3. Fill in the blank:

Trees absorb _____ to help reduce the effects of climate change.

4. What does the passage explain about the relationship between trees and climate change?

5. How does the text explain the role of trees in preventing soil loss?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: S

Lexile Level: 850L-1000L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational – Environmental Science

Introducing the Text

“This text explains the importance of trees and how they help keep the planet healthy. As students read, they will identify key vocabulary related to the environment, such as photosynthesis, erosion, and deforestation. They will also use context clues to figure out the meaning of these words.”

Vocabulary: carbon dioxide, photosynthesis, erosion, carbon, deforestation

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think trees do for the environment?
 2. Why might it be important to understand the role of trees in climate change?
 3. Have you heard the term *deforestation* before? What do you think it means?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does the process of photosynthesis do for the tree and the environment?
 2. How does cutting down trees affect the Earth's climate?
 3. What are the benefits of planting more trees?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What two main ideas are explained in the text?
 2. How does the author use specific words like *photosynthesis* and *erosion* to explain the role of trees?
 3. Why is it important to protect forests and reduce deforestation?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a visual diagram or flowchart to show the process of photosynthesis and how it benefits the environment. Students should label key vocabulary such as *carbon dioxide*, *photosynthesis*, and *carbon* in their diagrams.

