

TEXT

Trees are an important part of our world. They provide wood for building and pulp for making paper. They provide habitats (homes) for all sorts of insects, birds and other animals. Many types of fruits and nuts come from trees -- including apples, oranges, walnuts, pears and peaches. Even the sap of trees is useful as food for insects and for making maple syrup -- yum!

Trees also help to keep our air clean and our ecosystems healthy. We breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. Trees breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. We're perfect partners!

Trees do lots for us, our environment and other plants and animals in nature but we don't just love trees for practical reasons. Trees can also be very beautiful -- tall enough they seem to touch the sky and so big around you can't even hug them. Thousands of artists, professional and amateur alike have painted pictures of trees and thousands of poems, songs and stories have been written about them. I would guess that just about everyone on earth has at some point in their life stopped to enjoy the beauty of a tree.