

PLANTS FOR OUR FUTURE

On a planet like the Earth, which day by day becomes dirtier and dirtier and with an atmosphere full of smoke and poisonous gases, our trees and the forests, of course, must be preserved and protected at all costs. They are the ones which help us be healthy. They are the source of our own existence and well-being.

Do you know that one acre of forest absorbs **6 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂)** and puts out **4 tons of oxygen (O₂)**, enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people?

The planting of a tree is the beginning of a new life. In some countries, they plant a tree when a child is born: the tree grows, blossoms and gives fruit. They wish the same for the new-born child: to live, to grow and have their own children.

THE FOREST

*In a forest side by side
Tree to tree, facing each other
It gives a branch, it touches one
Greeting each other by the heart.*

*Half of the year I am dead
And I come to life in spring again.
Sometimes with leaves, sometimes without
Who really cares?
There's no doubt!*

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) Which are some of the major problems our planet faces nowadays?

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2) Why should we protect our trees?

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3) How much CO₂ does 1 acre of forest absorb?

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4) How much CO₂ does it put out?

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5) What do some people resemble the planting of a tree with?

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6) Try to write your own poem.

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