

Discovery Channel School Video Library for Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley Mathematics



SEGMENT 11: TREES

Trees are the oldest, largest, and tallest living things on Earth. They are powerful and enduring symbols of life.

What makes trees different than other plants is their trunk. A single woody trunk rises above the ground and divides into a series of branches.

Like all plants, trees require sunlight, carbon dioxide and water to survive. With these ingredients, they make the food they need and provide the oxygen we all use to breathe. By removing carbon dioxide, they replenish the Earth's atmosphere and give us fresh air.

Leaves collect energy from the sun and use it to make sugars that get transported throughout the tree for nutrition. Like sponges, the roots soak up water that moves through the trunk into branches and leaves. Excess water is released through the leaves back into the air.

Fallen logs decompose and gradually return their nutrients to the soil, allowing other plants to thrive. It's a long and productive cycle of life!