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Why Save a Tree?

Sustainability is a process, not a destination. To be sustainable means to increase responsibility for paper's entire life cycle—from the forest through responsible production and usage to recycling.



What would happen if we lost all trees? One sure thing is that the organisms that live on Earth—including humans—would be deeply affected. Read the table below to find out some of the reasons why.

Mammals	Birds	Insects	Humans
Some mammals, like squirrels and bats, make their homes in trees.	Many birds depend on trees for homes, whether in a hollow tree hole or in nests within a tree's branches.	Many types of insects live under the bark of trees or within leaves. For example, migrating monarch butterflies spend the winter living among trees in the south.	Trees clean the air we breathe by taking in carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen.
Some mammals use trees as a main source of food. For example, deer eat the leaves, twigs, and acorns of trees.	Trees provide food for many birds. For example, woodpeckers eat insects that are trapped in a tree's sap.	Insects depend on trees' leaves, fruit, twigs, and interior tissue for food.	Trees help prevent erosion by holding soil in place with their roots.
Trees offer mammals protection from the weather and from predators on the ground.	Many birds use trees to provide shelter for their young.		Flowering trees provide nectar for insects that are pollinators, such as honeybees.
Mammals use trees to store food. Tree squirrels stash nuts, berries, and fruit in hollow places in trees.	Some species of birds depend on trees as a place to store vital food during the winter.		Shade from trees cools the earth and reduces energy consumption. Trees also make rain fall by releasing water from leaves back into the atmosphere, where it later falls as rain.

On another sheet of paper, write an argument from the viewpoint of a tree. Use the information above to support the claim that humans should work to protect trees.