

TreeCircus *vocabulary*

CROWN: The crown is the leafy part of a tree. It absorbs radiant energy from the sun and turns it into food!

TRUNK: The trunk is the middle section of the tree, covered in bark. It's the sturdy part of the tree and is full of passageways that transport food and energy throughout the tree

ROOTS: The roots are the hardest working part of the tree. They hold it in the ground and absorb nutrients from the soil

CRZ: The Critical Root Zone is the tree protection zone. It's an imaginary circle in the soil above the roots that should be protected and cared for to insure your tree's health.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: Essential elements are the minerals that a tree depends on to live. Nitrogen is what trees need most out of the soil they're growing in, and often it's the hardest mineral to find.

PHOTOSYNTHESIS: Photosynthesis is the process trees use to turn light into food. If there are no leaves on a tree, photosynthesis can't take place.

TRANSPIRATION: Transpiration is the process trees use to cool down. Similar to human sweat, it's when tiny water droplets emerge from a tree's leaves and help lower its temperature.

PARTICULATE POLLUTION: Particulate Pollution is tiny molecules of dust and dirt floating in our air. Trees are great at filtering out this pollution and also absorbing harmful gasses.

URBAN FOREST: 80% of Americans live in an urban forest. It's a way of looking at all of trees in our cities as one. Our urban forests make our neighborhoods much healthier and more enjoyable.



**To learn more about TreeCircus please visit
www.treecircus.org or email rita@wcisa.net**

What do TREES give us?

SHADE: Radiant energy from the sun is absorbed or deflected by leaves on deciduous trees in the summer and is only filtered by branches of deciduous trees in winter. The larger the tree, the greater the cooling effect. By using trees in the cities, we can moderate the heat-island effect caused by pavement and buildings in commercial areas.

WATER: Trees improve water quality by slowing and filtering rain water, as well as protecting aquifers and watersheds.

PREVENT EROSION: Tree roots stabilize soil and prevent it from moving around too much.

HABITAT/HOMES FOR ANIMALS: By planting trees and shrubs, we return developed areas to a more natural environment that is attractive to birds and wildlife. Ecological cycles of plant growth, reproduction, and decomposition are again present, both above and below ground. Natural harmony is restored to the urban environment.

CELLULOSE: PAPER, FOOD, ETC.: The most common organic matter on earth. It's what tree and plant cell walls are made of. Cellulose is used to produce paper, fabric (like Rayon), medicine, and more. Remember... trees give us paper, paper makes books, books give us knowledge, and knowledge is POWER!

OXYGEN: Oxygen, the air we humans need to breathe, is naturally produced by trees. One tree produces nearly 260 pounds of oxygen each year! One acre of trees removes up to 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide each year.

LOGS TO LUMBER: Logs to lumber programs use trees to build with! It's okay to cut trees down as long as you use its wood wisely and replant at least one tree in its place.

JOBS: Do people get paid to climb trees? YES! The International Society of Arboriculture certifies people who work with trees for a living, also known as arborists.

Learn more tree facts at www.treesaregood.com.

