

People & Trees

Plant a Tree Activity

Follow the step-by-step guidelines for planting a tree. You can start growing a new tree at your school or in your own backyard.

1 SELECT A TREE that grows in your area. You can buy a tree or you might find one growing in the forest that you can dig up and replant. (Make sure you get the landowner's permission.)

2 PICK A SPOT FOR YOUR TREE. Most trees like plenty of sun and water, but some will grow in the shade. Remember, your tree is going to grow up and out, so don't plant it too close to a building or other trees.

3 DIG A HOLE that is approximately 12 inches wider and 12 inches deeper than the root ball.

4 LOOSEN THE SOIL at the sides of the hole by cutting it with a shovel. This will allow the roots to grow into the surrounding soil.

5 MIX THE SOIL that was removed from the hole with peat moss or another organic material to make it soft and ready to absorb water.

6 PUT PREPARED SOIL (around 12 inches) back into the hole. Pour water into the hole until it makes a puddle.

7 PLACE THE TREE INTO THE HOLE. The top of the root ball should be at, or just above, ground level. Make sure the stem is straight, then replace the soil around the tree.

8 PACK THE SOIL LIGHTLY with your foot and water until a puddle forms on top of the soil.

9 APPLY COMPOST to the ground around the base of the tree. Watering may be necessary if rainfall is limited, especially during the first four weeks after planting. If so, water twice a week.

