

# Tree Growth Fact Sheet

- Each part of a tree has a very important role to play to contribute to the tree's overall health:
  - Roots hold the tree in the ground and suck up water and nutrients to distribute throughout the trunk, branches, and leaves.
  - The bark protects the tree from weather, animals, insects, etc.
  - The leaves soak up sunlight to produce food for the plant.
  - The seeds are dispersed by the wind or animals. Ideally, each seed will grow into a new tree given the proper nutrients, water, and sunlight. But in reality, very few seeds have the right environment to turn into an adult tree.
- As a tree gets older, its trunk and branches thicken. If you see a fresh tree stump, you can count the rings around the inside of the tree and find out its age: one ring for every year the tree was alive.
- Trees help to keep the air clean. They take in the carbon dioxide that humans and other animals breathe out, and release oxygen that humans and animals breathe in.



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