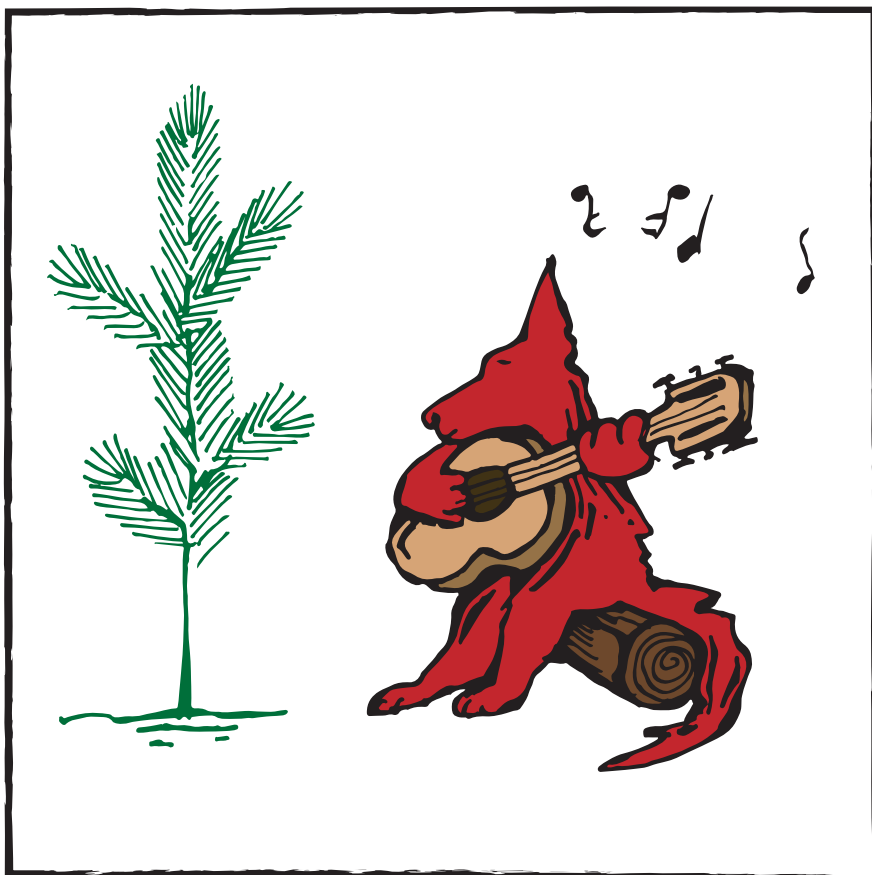# PLANT A TREE!

Good For The Planet! Good For You!

"A society grows great when passing generations plant trees
in whose shade they know they shall never sit."

– Greek Proverb

TREE BENEFITS HANDBOOK

PLANT TREES FOR LIFE!

Tree planting is a simple, optimistic act that has great benefits for the environment as well as making the world a better-looking and more inviting place to live for human beings and many animal species!

- Trees are beautiful and practical.

- Trees produce life-giving oxygen and improve air quality.

- Trees provide protection from sun and wind and beauty that changes with the seasons.

- Trees reduce noise and moderate temperatures.

- Trees reduce soil erosion, flooding, and water pollution.

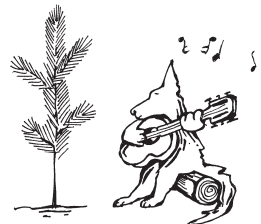- Trees provide wildlife habitat and food.

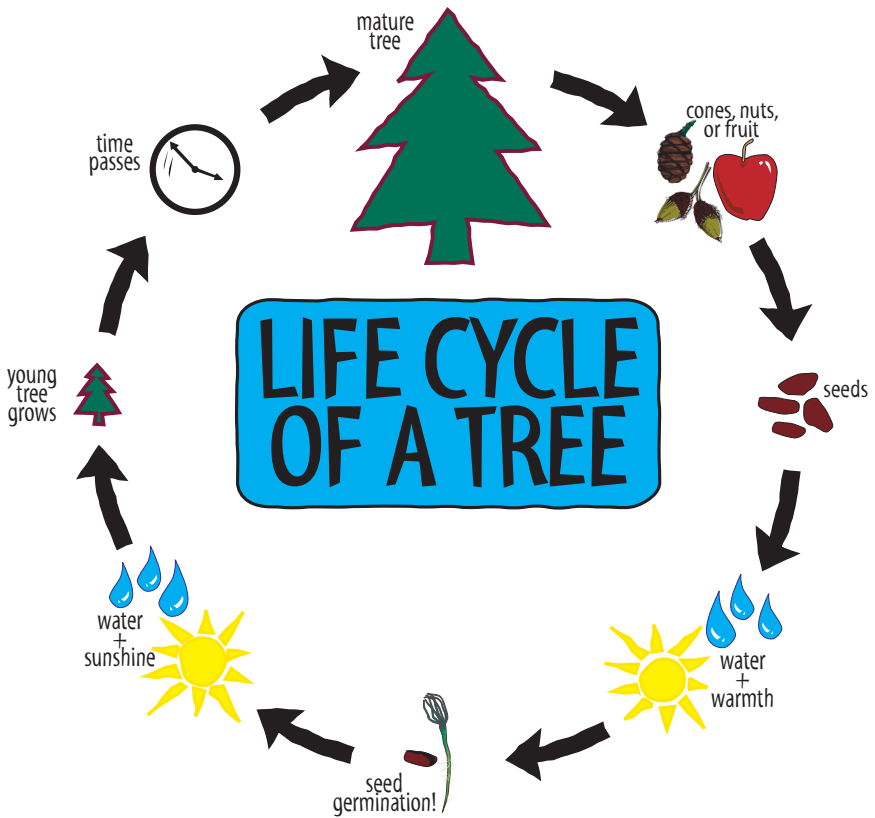- Trees increase property values and cut utility costs significantly.

- Trees provide net financial benefits worth 2 to 3 times the cost of planting and caring for them over a 30-year period.

- Trees make us feel better emotionally! They reduce psychological stress, anxiety, and irritability. Trees lining a roadway have a traffic-calming affect, causing cars to naturally slow down.
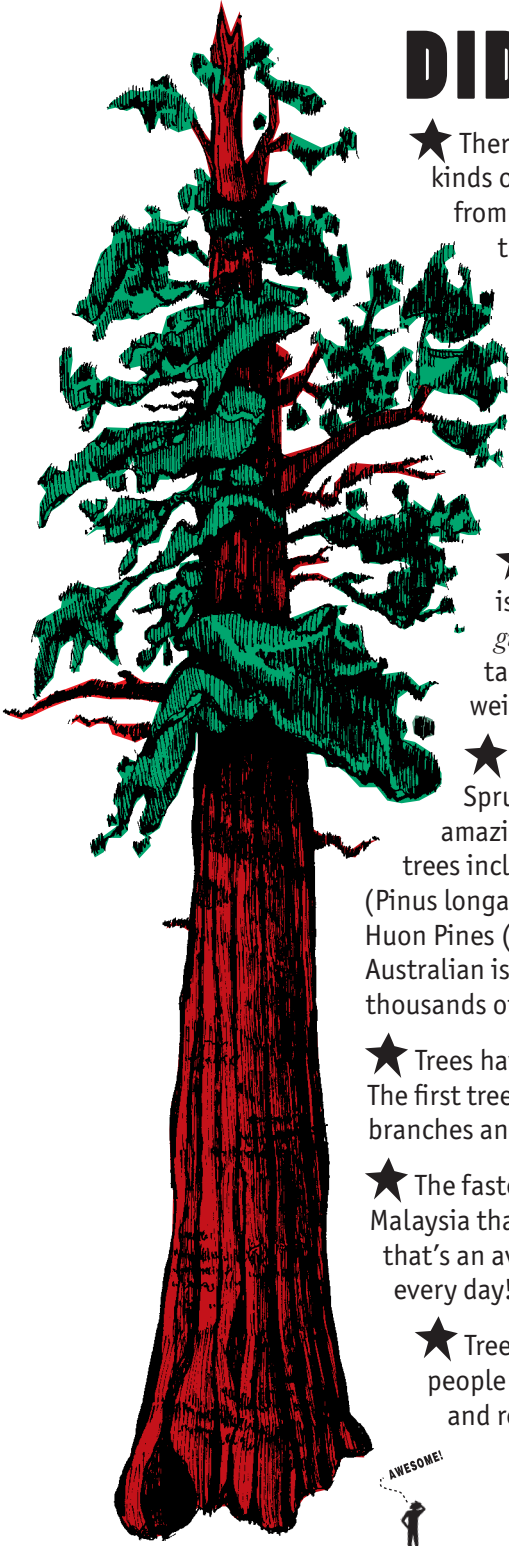
LIFE CYCLE OF A TREE

mature tree

cones, nuts, or fruit

seeds

water + warmth

seed germination!

water + sunshine

young tree grows

time passes

REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT!

Growing trees store carbon – they are fresh air machines! Through the process of photosynthesis, trees remove CO_2 from the atmosphere and store it as cellulose, lignin, and other compounds.

In addition to storing carbon compounds within themselves during their lives, trees also contribute to the more permanent sequestration of carbon in the soil. The U. S. Forest Service estimates forests in the United States sequestered a net of approximately 309 million tons of carbon per year from 1952 to 1992, offsetting approximately 25% of U.S. human-caused emissions of carbon during that period.

It is estimated that if every American family planted just one tree, the amount of CO_2 in the atmosphere would be reduced by one billion pounds annually (5% of emissions). Just forty trees sequester one full metric ton of CO_2 each year. **Get planting!**

DID YOU KNOW?

★ There are approximately 60,000 different kinds of trees growing around the world today, from cold places, like the Arctic, to warm, tropical places, like Hawai'i.

★ The world's tallest living thing is a Coast Redwood tree (*Sequoia sempervirens*) which stands almost 385 feet tall. That's more than two and a half times taller than the Statue of Liberty, about the height of a 40-story skyscraper!

★ The world's most massive living thing is a Giant Sequoia tree (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) that towers nearly 300 feet tall, is almost 40 feet in diameter, and weighs over 12 million pounds (6,000 tons)!

★ The world's oldest living tree is a Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) living in Sweden. This amazing tree is 9,550 years old! Other ancient trees include North America's Bristlecone Pines (Pinus longaeva) which can live for 5,000 years, and Huon Pines (*Lagarostrobos franklinii*) on the Australian island of Tasmania which also live for thousands of years.

★ Trees have existed on earth for 370 million years. The first tree was called "Archaeopteris," and its branches and leaves resembled a fern.

★ The fastest-growing tree on record is an Acacia in Malaysia that reportedly grew 36 feet in 3 months – that's an average of almost 5 inches of new growth every day!

★ Trees affect our emotions. Trees can calm people down when they are feeling stressed out, and reduce feelings of anxiety and irritability.

AWESOME!