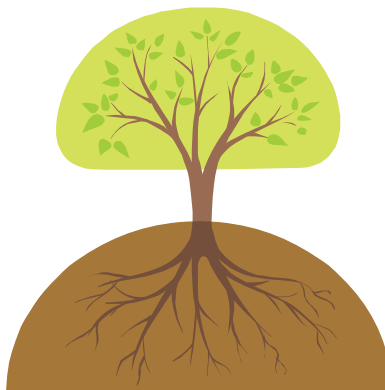


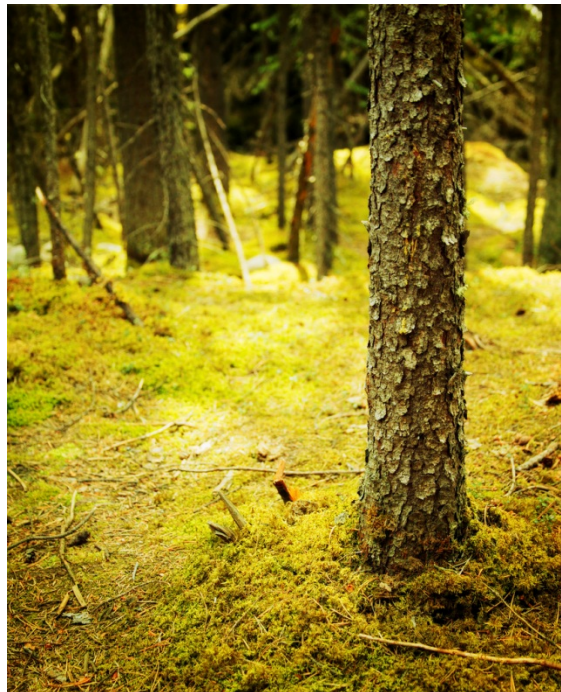
Roots

Roots are found in the soil. They take in water and nutrients from the soil and move them into the tree. They are the anchor of the tree, keeping it in place. They also hold the dirt in place, which slows erosion and keeps water clean. Roots can grow deep in the ground, but most are fairly close to the surface so they can reach water and air. They usually grow out very wide – twice as far as the branches above ground.



Bark

Bark is a very important part of a tree. It covers the trunk, branches, and twigs. Much like our skin, it acts as a protective coating. It wards off insects and disease, and protects the inner tissues against damage from storms or extreme temperatures. For some species with very thick bark, it also can protect them from fire.



Trunk

The trunk provides the support and structure to a tree. It carries water and food from the roots and leaves throughout the rest of the tree. Because the trunk is made of wood, which is created out of the carbon dioxide in the air, tree trunks store carbon and help slow down climate change.



Leaves

Leaves are where a tree makes its food. They absorb carbon dioxide from the air and use sunlight to turn the carbon into sugars. Afterward, they release oxygen – which we breathe! Leaves clean the air and create cooling shade. They can also offer hiding places for animals living in the trees.



Branches

Along with the leaves, the branches make up the top of the tree called the “crown.” The shape of the crown is usually very specific to each type of tree. Branches help distribute the leaves efficiently for the type of tree and the environment. They also help move for water and nutrients and store extra sugar.

