

PAPER WORLD

# TREES

Take a  
closer look  
at Trees –  
with 40 flaps  
to lift!

*illustrated by*

**GAIL ARMSTRONG**

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Trees are super useful. They provide shelter, food, building materials, and even the paper this book is made from. But, trees are even more important than you might think. In fact, they are absolutely **ESSENTIAL** for life on Earth. That's because, like all plants, they take in the carbon dioxide that animals (including humans) don't need and release oxygen that we really, really do need. Trees are truly amazing and this book will show you how, and why.

## WHAT IS A TREE?

Trees are plants with thick woody stems called trunks, a large network of underground roots and lots of leaf-covered branches. The branches divide into smaller parts called twigs, where small buds sprout from and then develop into leaves or flowers. All the different parts of the tree work together to help it flourish.

The tallest living things on Earth, trees are different from most other plants because they keep growing bigger and taller year after year. The oldest trees can keep growing for several thousand years (you'll find out more about them later in the book). Incredibly, there are more than three trillion trees on the planet, or around 400 trees for every person.

### Home to life

Trees support an amazing variety of life, from insects that live on their bark to larger animals, such as deer, that visit to snack on fruit or leaves. A mature oak tree can support more than 2,000 species.

### Flowers

Like most plants, trees reproduce via seeds. First though, they develop flowers, which produce a fine, powdery substance called pollen. When the flower is fertilised (pollinated) usually by pollen from another tree, it then produces seeds.

### Spreading seeds

Seeds can be dispersed by wind, water or animals. Many animals eat the fruit and then poop out the seeds, which sprout into new trees. Squirrels bury nuts to eat later, but if they forget where they buried them, the seeds may germinate.

### Branching out

Much thinner than the main trunk, branches help transport water to the leaves. Branches also grow outwards to make the tree wider, so that as much sunlight as possible reaches the leaves.

The trunk is made up of layers. At the centre, the wood, is where water is stored and used around the tree. The core is rings of it, which show how old it is. A new ring grows each year.

Bark  
Growth rings  
Sapwood  
Heartwood

Leafy twigs  
Bark  
Sapwood  
Heartwood  
Roots