

Gardening

Unit 5 of 7

*"I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall
I'll never see a tree at all"*

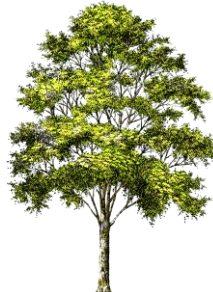


Quote by Ogden Nash (1902-1971), American poet and lyricist

1. Explain what Ogden Nash meant by this poem. Do you agree with him?
2. Write your own four-line poem about a billboard.

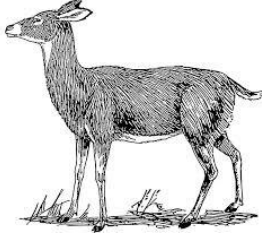
In this Unit we are going to look at trees and shrubs and try to determine why they are so important to us and our surroundings.

3. If you could be a tree which would you choose and why?
4. Name six uses for wood.
5. If you had all the necessary tools what would you like to make out of wood? Draw a diagram of what you would make.



Trees and shrubs are very important for attracting wildlife, especially by providing food and shelter. Many animals such as rabbits and chipmunks rely on fruits gathered in the fall to keep them fed during the winter. Most birds find safety nesting in trees in springtime. Wildlife is essential to a balanced landscape. Animals are needed to bury nuts and seeds in order for new plants to grow and birds protect their habitat from disease by eating pests and insects.

6. Name four disadvantages of having wildlife in the garden.



Squirrels are famous for being very resourceful when it comes to eating from garden bird feeders. There are many designs on the market but few actually work!

7. Design and draw a bird feeder that is squirrel proof!

People get very attached to trees. Often there are stories in the newspaper about someone refusing to get out of a tree when it is being cut down to make way for a new road or building.

8. Why do you think we have such strong feelings for trees?

Trees are essential to the world we live in. They are thought to help the effects of global warming caused by the emission of too much carbon dioxide. Trees take carbon dioxide out of the air and store it as carbon in their wood.

9. Apart from planting more trees, what else can we do to reduce the effects of global warming?

10. How could your facility help contribute to this effort?

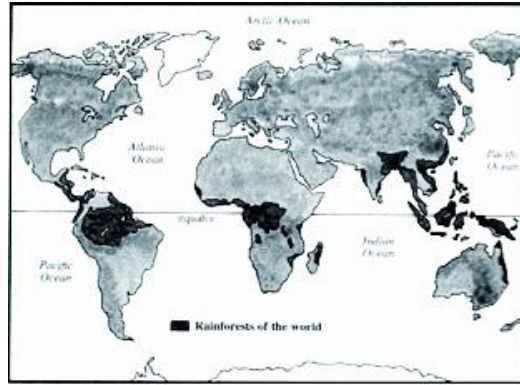
Now it's brainteaser time!

A *laburnum* tree is tall and graceful, with long sprays of bright yellow flowers in the spring. However the leaves, and especially the seeds, are poisonous.

11. How many words can you make from the word *laburnum*? Hint -- there are at least twelve.

Rainforests

Rainforests are the Earth's oldest living ecosystems. Although they cover only 6% of the Earth's surface, they contain more than half of the world's plant and animal species.



12. Looking at the map above try and name where most of the tropical rainforests are.

A rainforest is a tall, dense jungle with very high amounts of rainfall every year. The climate is very hot and humid and animals and plants that live there must learn to adapt to these conditions.

13. Name three animals, three birds, and three plants found in a rainforest.

Our world could not exist, as we know it today, without the resources of the rainforests. Many products such as medicines, rubber, and foods come from these regions. The *cacao bean*, grown mainly in West Africa, is one of the world's most popular foods -- **chocolate!**



14. Why is chocolate so popular?

15. What is your favorite type of chocolate?

A rainforest has four distinct layers, each with its own ecosystem:

The EMERGENT LAYER is where the tallest trees, over 200 feet high, tower over the forest floor. Most of these trees are hardwood evergreens. This is where there is plenty of sunlight.



16. What types of animals would be found at this level?

The CANOPY LAYER is the primary layer and forms a roof over the two remaining layers. This area is dense and lush with a plentiful food supply.



17. Who would be living here?

The third layer is the UNDERSTORY LAYER. Very little sunshine reaches this area, and to compensate plants grow bigger leaves in an attempt to reach more daylight. There are a large number of inhabitants in this area, including many insects.



18. Name the animals and insects you might find here.

The final layer is the FOREST FLOOR. Here is is very dark and few plants grow. As there is virtually no sunlight, decay happens quickly.



19. Who would be able to live at this level?

Logging



The world's rainforests are disappearing at the rate of 4,000 football fields every hour. Plants and animals are destroyed and left homeless and many species are at risk of becoming extinct. The delicate balance of the ecosystem is disrupted, altering the atmosphere and climate. Many areas are destroyed by "clear cut" logging, where every tree for miles around is cut down, leaving a vast wasteland.

20. What would you do to control this type of logging without totally endangering the habitat living there?

21. Write a short story about life as an animal or bird living in a rain forest about to be logged.

Mazes

A *maze* is a confusing network of interconnecting pathways. Many famous gardens throughout the world have mazes planted with shrubs, forming a series of winding paths. Most of these paths lead to a dead end. Usually only one route will take you to the center and out again. Shrubs, being woody plants, but smaller than trees, are ideal for this purpose. Boxwood is a perfect plant for this job as it can be sheared as a hedge.



22. What other plants are used to create a maze, especially here in the USA?

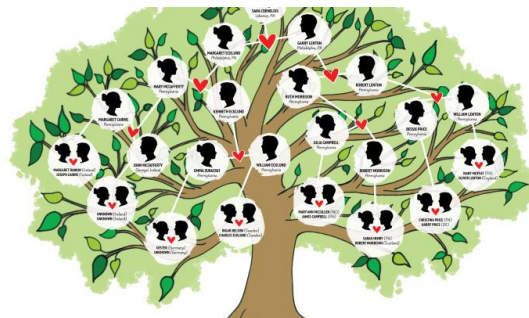
Hampton Court Palace, just outside of London, England, has one of the most famous hedge mazes in the world. Once renowned by King Henry VIII in the 16th century, the present maze was replanted between 1689 and 1695. It covers a third of an acre and contains half a mile of paths.



23. Why would building a maze be of importance at this time?

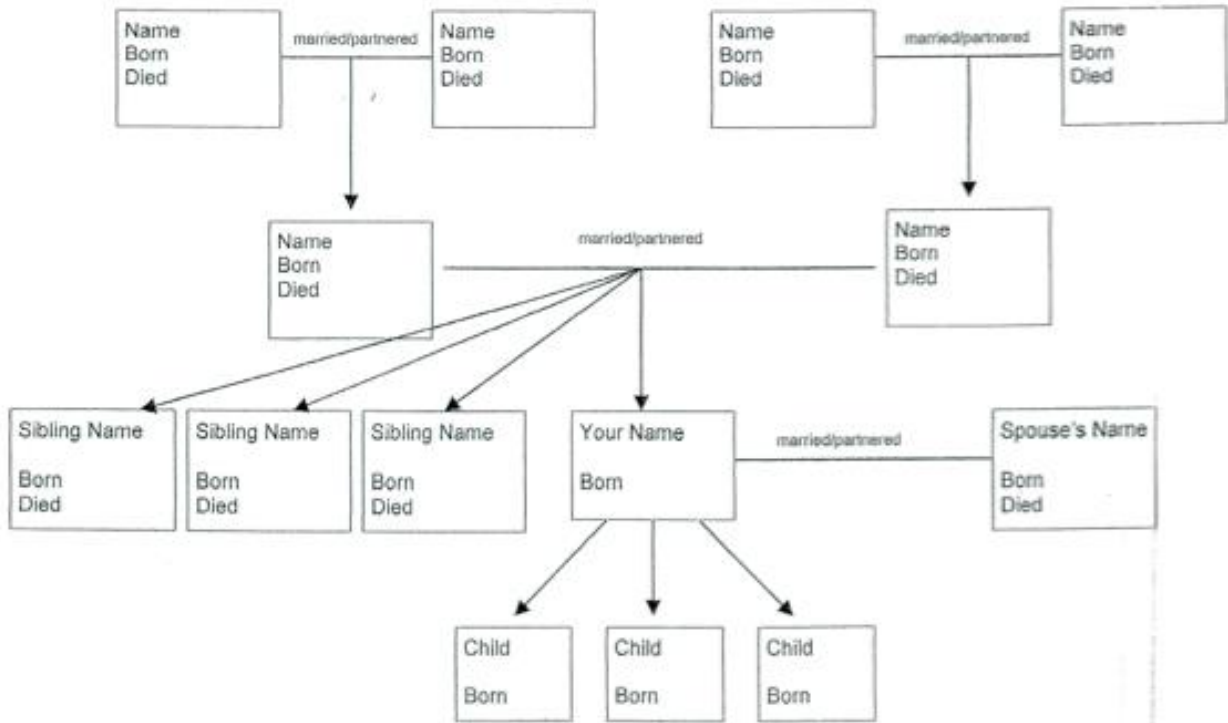
24. Design and draw your own maze, leading to and from a central point. You will find an amazing maze challenge coming up in Unit 6!

Family Tree



Yes, even we are part of a tree - *the Family Tree!* Here is your final project of this Unit. Try as much as you are able to trace your ancestry. You might be surprised at how much you can discover about your family. Start with yourself in the middle and complete what you can. If you would prefer, draw your own chart on a separate sheets. Use just first names and an initial for the last name.

Ancestral Chart



Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes