

## TREES

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by [men] like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

~Joyce Kilmer

Trees are also the longest living plants. Some trees have lived for thousands of years. There are even some very old trees that were alive when Jesus lived on earth!

Trees continue to grow as long as they live. While most plants die in the winter, trees don't. Some may lose their leaves, but stay alive and grow new ones in the spring. The tree's leaves make food that help it grow and keep it alive. Just as God had **order** in creation, there is **order** in how a tree grows.

There are some trees that keep their leaves during the winter and stay green all year long. The trees that lose their leaves start preparing to shed them long before winter even comes--they follow the **order** of nature. God set in place a rhythmic **order** of the seasons and all nature--including trees--respond to it.

The trees that shed their leaves during autumn take a rest during the winter. Then in the spring, these trees grow new leaves and flowers. The flowers then develop into fruit which is full of seeds for making new trees. Some trees develop fruit, like oranges and apples, that make good food for us to eat.

And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. (Genesis 1:29)

Trees also give us wood which is very valuable in making lumber, paper, and paint. But did you know that wood is even used in making some sponges, bath towels, chewing gum and toothpaste?

"Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the Lord." (Haggai 1:8)

God looked into the future and saw all the needs of the people He created. He knew how trees could provide the very things we needed to live of this earth. What a great gift from God! And one of the greatest gifts trees give us is their beauty. They brighten the springtime with their buds and blossoms. In the hot summer they provide us with cooling shade. Then the brilliant colors in fall fill us with delight. And even in the winter, their dark, bare branches make a beautiful contrast with the pure white snow. Without trees the world would not be nearly so beautiful.

We will be learning many other important facts and lessons from trees in this unit study.

**Draw your favorite tree below:**