



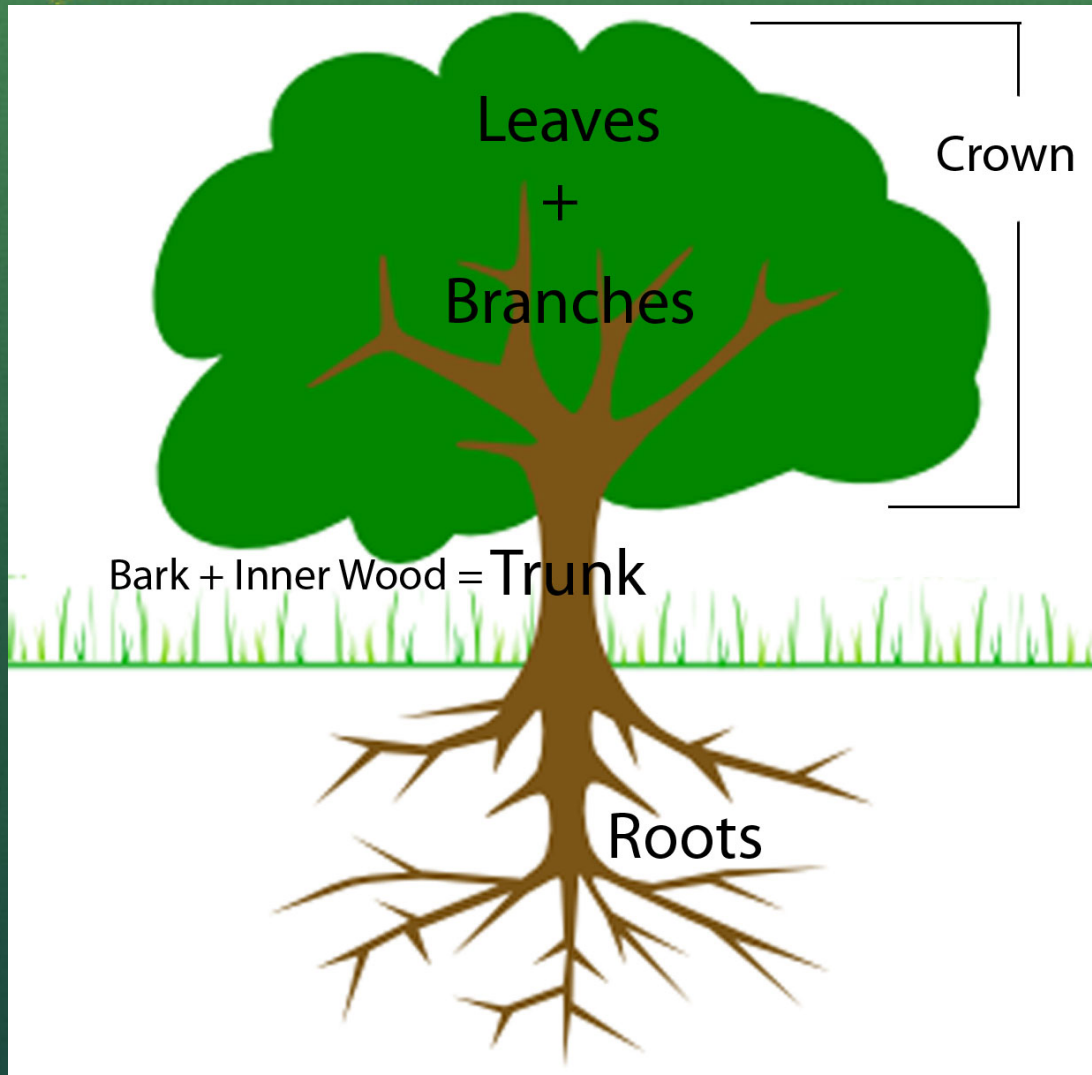
What Does This All Mean? (Explanation)

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Trees

Trees are known as carbon sinks, which basically means that they absorb carbon from our environment. They go through a process known as photosynthesis. This process is needed so trees can make food in order to survive. While a tree goes through photosynthesis, it releases Oxygen, which what we breathe in order to stay alive!

Parts of a Tree



Trees in Michigan

American Elm



Black Gum



Trees in Michigan Cont'd

Box Elder



Carbon

- Carbon is an element found in many places within our environment
- It can come in different forms such as a gas (CO₂) or in its natural solid state
- It can be found in rocks, oceans, air, plants, soil, and fossil fuels
- As stated on a previous slide, trees need carbon in order to make their own food
- When carbon is in the form of a gas, known as CO₂, it is found in Earth's atmosphere and can increase the temperature of Earth's surface
- But, trees, soil, and oceans are carbon sinks, meaning that they take carbon from the atmosphere

Human Impact on Environment

- Deforestation is the process of cutting down trees within our environment
- Humans need trees to make wood for buildings, paper, tables, doors, etc. so we cut down trees (Remember the Bill Nye Video!)
- Humans are currently struggling to find a balance between cutting down trees and getting enough wood to make things
- We must remember not to cut down all of the trees! (Remember what happened in The Lorax!)

Carbon Footprint

- The online activity each of us completed was to find our carbon footprint
- This tool helped us calculate how much carbon we use on a regular basis
- Whenever we turn on the lights, drive in a car, watch TV, use the computer, or shower, we use carbon!
- By doing such activities, we put carbon into the environment as CO₂, which heats up the planet when we have a lot of it in our atmosphere.
- Remember, we don't want Earth too hot! This is why we want a small carbon footprint. Carbon adds up quickly when each human on Earth has their own carbon footprint.

Albedo

Low Percentage of Albedo

Forests



Soil



Albedo Cont'd

High Percentage of Albedo

Fresh Snow



Oceans



References

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- Albedo Pictures

<http://www.google.com/imghp?hl=en&tab=wi>

- Information from Carbon and Climate

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