

# TREES FOR THE BEES

## YOUR MISSION: Help bees by helping trees!

### MATERIALS

- **TREErific Habits sheet** (for the teacher)
- **TREErific Challenge Chart** (one per student – printed on reused paper)

- 1.** Ask students what they know about pollinators and how trees help them. For example:
  - *Flower nectar from fruit trees like apple and cherries give bees energy.*
  - *Trees give pollinators places to nest and rest.*
  - *Some caterpillars need to eat leaves from specific trees to turn into butterflies.*
- 2.** Explain that to help pollinators, you are going to take on the Trees For the Bees Challenge. Go through the five habits using the TREErific Habits Sheet and answer any questions.
- 3.** Hand out the **TREErific Challenge Chart**. Tell students to check off habits they do each day (one check per habit daily) for a week and that you'll check in next week to see how it went.
- 4.** One week later, discuss the results. The following questions can guide the discussion:
  - *Which habit was easiest? Why?*
  - *Which habit was hardest? Why?*
  - *For "Talk about trees"—what did you share, and what do you think is most important?*
  - *What can we do to continue helping pollinators?*
  - *Why is it important for everyone to take action?*

### Pollinators explained to kids

Pollinators, like bees and butterflies, help plants grow fruits, vegetables, and nuts by moving pollen from flower to flower. Without them, we wouldn't have many of our favorite foods, like apples, strawberries, and chocolate!

Pollinator populations are getting smaller because of things like fewer flowers to visit, pollution, chemicals that hurt them, and changes in weather. This makes it harder for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators to find food and safe places to live.



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## Five TREErific Habits

### 1. Use both sides: Fill up both sides of your paper

We often use more paper than we need to. Using both sides of the paper reduces the amount of paper that is made. This contributes to fewer trees being cut down. By being aware of the quantity of paper we use, we can do our part in keeping the environment healthy for pollinators.



### 2. Hug a tree: Give a big hug to say thank you

How can we thank a tree for helping pollinators? We can hug it, of course! More seriously, it is important to spend time in nature. It is good for our health – physically and for our mood. It gives us the chance to see all the things that are going on outside.



### 3. Talk about trees: Tell others why trees are important

Not everyone knows everything that trees do for us and for pollinators. By spreading the word about how important trees are, we can inspire people to take action and help take care of trees.



### 4. Recycle: Give your paper products a second life

Recycle your paper products instead of throwing them out so they can be turned into new things! Almost all paper products can be recycled, including newspapers, paper towel rolls, cereal boxes, and of course, paper. When they are recycled instead of being thrown away, they can become new things and we don't have to cut down more trees.



### 5. Get reading: Borrow a book

By borrowing a book from the library or from a friend, it cuts back on the amount of books that need to be made. That means less paper needs to be produced, fewer trees need to be cut down and so, there is more food for pollinators to eat and more places to them to rest.



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Your TREErific Habits Tracking Sheet

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Every day, check the box for any habit you complete at least once, but remember to mark each habit only once per day. At the end of the week, total the check marks for each category.

	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat	sun	TOTAL
<b>use both sides</b> fill up both sides of your paper								
<b>hug a tree</b> give a tree a big hug to say thank you								
<b>talk about trees</b> tell someone why trees are important								
<b>recycle</b> give your paper products a second life								
<b>get reading</b> borrow a book								