

Grace K., 5th Grader,

Shell Beach Elementary

“Trees are Treasures”

Did you know that more than 15 billion trees are cut down every year? That's a lot of trees being deforested annually! Trees are important to our ecosystem and life on Earth because of their contribution to wildlife and biodiversity (different plants and animals), they help control pollution, and they prevent flash floods and landslides.

To start, trees contribute to wildlife and biodiversity. At the Monarch Butterfly Grove in Pismo Beach, lots of Monarch butterflies live on trees. If we cut those trees down, the butterflies will no longer have a place to live. Also, many birds make nests on trees. Lots of animals and plants use tall trees as shelter. If those trees were not there, dozens of animals and insects, such as bees, would be affected. Biodiversity is necessary for humans as well as animals.

In addition, trees help control pollution. Trees are essential for humans because they release the oxygen that we breathe. Trees control pollution by inhaling carbon dioxide and exhaling oxygen. As we all know, pollution causes global warming and climate change. Planting trees is one of the most important ways to control climate change and global warming.

Last but not least, trees prevent flash floods and landslides. The roots of trees hold the soil in place, which prevents soil erosion, stopping landslides. The roots absorb water preventing flooding. For example, bamboo trees bind soil. Plus, trees save lives and prevent enormous destruction on hills when they prevent landslides. Trees absorb extra water, which prevents flash floods. According to “The Role of Trees and Forests in Healthy Watersheds” by Vincent Cotrone, “a single deciduous tree can intercept from 500 to 760 gallons per year; and a mature evergreen can intercept more than 4,000 gallons per year.”

In conclusion, trees are extremely necessary for our environment and life on Earth because they contribute to wildlife and biodiversity, they help control pollution, and they prevent flash floods and landslides. So due to all these reasons we can say Trees are treasures and we should plant and preserve trees in our Pismo Beach community. We should all start planting at least two trees a year!

