



Talk About It

What would happen if trees disappeared from the world?



Find out more about trees at
www.macmillanmh.com

TREES
for LIFE

Vocabulary

quest

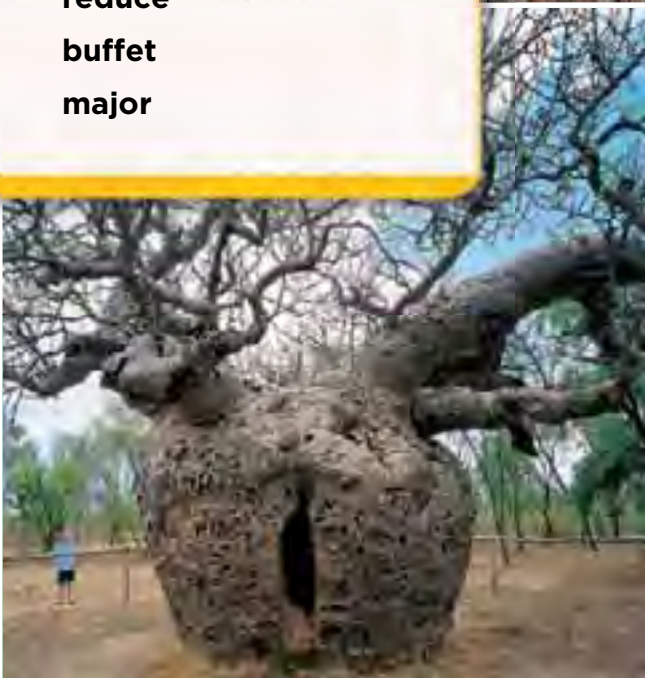
settings

reduce

buffet

major

TREE-RIFIC!



The hollow trunk of this Australian boab tree was once used as a prison.



Thomas Pakenham stands at the foot of a Montezuma cypress in Mexico.

Thomas Pakenham set out on a **quest**. Armed with 30 pounds of camera equipment, the British historian went searching for fascinating trees. As Pakenham says, he was in search of trees with “noble brows and strong personalities.” He wrote a book about his experiences, with photographs of the many different “personalities” he found. His portraits show the wide range in tree sizes and shapes. Some of the tiny bonsai trees of Japan are less than a foot tall, even though they are full-grown and many years old. On the other hand, in

California, Pakenham found “General Sherman”—the name given to a giant sequoia tree that is considered to be the largest single living thing on Earth.

Pakenham’s search brought him face to face with many remarkable trees in beautiful **settings** all around the world. A tree in Mexico, the Montezuma cypress, has a trunk that is 190 feet around. Similarly, a tree called a “dancing lime” in Germany once held an orchestra on its bottom branches! Pakenham hopes these and other trees will help his message grow: “We shouldn’t take them for granted.”



TREES AT WORK

From steamy rain forests to snowy mountainsides, trees are among nature's hardest workers in any climate!

KEEP IT DOWN!

In noisy areas such as near airports and freeways, trees can absorb sound. They **reduce**, or cut down, the noise almost as effectively as stone walls.

EARTH FRIENDLY

Trees reduce the effects of carbon dioxide, a cause of global warming. Trees absorb and "lock up" carbon dioxide, keeping it from harming the environment.

TAKE A BREATHER

In just one season, a mature tree can produce as much oxygen as ten people inhale in one year.

STAY COOL

Trees can reduce heating costs by breaking the force of winter winds that **buffet** and batter homes. In summer, trees can keep areas of cities as much as 12 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than areas without trees.

STRONG ROOTS

Top layers of soil can be carried away by wind and water. This can cause **major** environmental problems, such as floods and clogged waterways. Trees hold soil in place.

TOP 5 MOST COMMON TREES IN THE U.S.

In the United States, the last Friday in April is Arbor Day. More than 1 million trees were planted on the first Arbor Day in 1872. In 2002, 130 years later, Americans celebrated by planting 18 million trees during the year. Here are the most common trees in this country. Are any of them in your neighborhood?



Find out more about identifying trees at www.macmillanmh.com



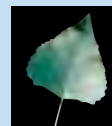
1. Silver Maple



2. Black Cherry



3. Box Elder



4. Eastern Cottonwood



5. Black Willow