



## TREES AND THE OXYGEN



7-11 years



Groups of 4-5  
children



## OUR OWN TREE NURSERY



45 minutes



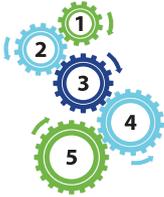
Goals of this activity are

- raise awareness on environmental conservation;
- recognize the importance of trees and respecting nature.



List of needed materials :

- Large plastic bottle (2 litres)
- Scissors
- Heavy duty tape
- Soil or potting mix
- Seeds
- Water



#### Introduction:

Trees are vital. As the biggest plants on the planet, they give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilize the soil and give life to the world's wildlife. They also provide us with the materials for tools and shelter.

We need trees to breathe. ... Trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. They release oxygen through a process called photosynthesis. Practically all animal life on Earth needs oxygen to breathe and forests play a key role in the complex global oxygen cycle.

Trees can make a garden 5°C cooler than would have been the case without them. We should all plant at least two trees a year, because that is what we use in one way or another. Fruit trees are especially worthwhile. So, it is quite important to get involved in growing, planting and protecting trees. Developing a tree nursery can be a very important service for a local community.

#### Steps to implement our own tree nursery:

1. Involve young people in looking at the trees that grow well in your area.
2. Ask permission from the owners to collect seeds.
3. Collect old two-liters plastic bottles
4. Prepare mini-terrariums:
  - Cut a bottle
  - Fill the bottom with soil
  - Plant the seed. Water without soaking the soil
  - Carefully tape the top of the bottle back.



5. Your terrarium is ready, put it in a nice sunny place.
6. Water lightly once a week.
7. The seed should take four weeks to grow
8. After three weeks of growth, report into a plastic bag filled with good soil.
9. When the tree is 30 cm tall, give it to someone who promises to care for it, and plant it in the ground with lots of compost. New trees need to be watered for the first two years of growth

Source: adapted from: The Global Scout, Frank Opie. Maskew Miller Longman (1993)