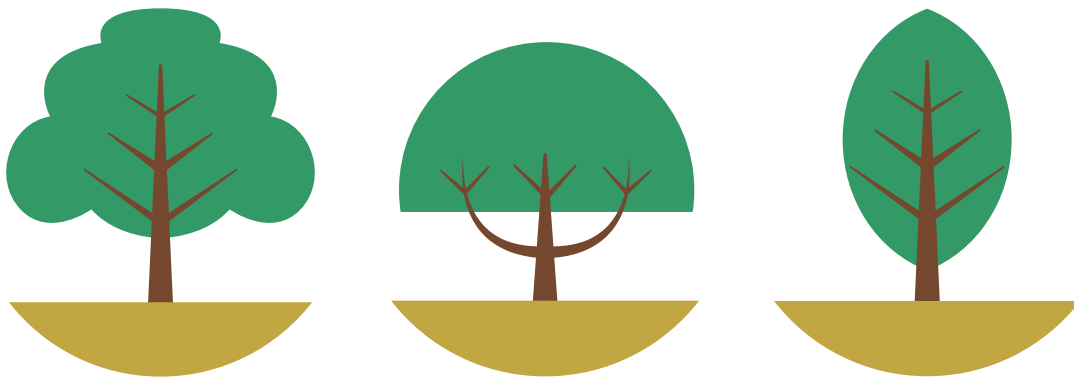


Fascinating Forests

Time to experiment!

On a hot day, it's always cooler under a tree. Not only do leafy branches shade you from the sun, plants cool the air around them through transpiration.

Background: How do plants cool the air? Just as we perspire through pores in our skin, leaves transpire through tiny openings called stomata. Water in the leaves change to water vapour (a gas). This uses up heat energy in the air – it cools the air. A large tree can send litres of water vapour into the air on a hot day. A forest can send so much that it affects climate/rainfall in that area. Wow!



Materials:

Leafy tree, small plastic bag, a pebble, a twist tie, measuring cup, measuring spoons.

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