

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Tuesday, January 5 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.

Tree-planting nonprofit looks to branch out (NW Tuesday, page B7).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Before you read this article, as a class discuss what you think this story will be about. Write down any keywords from the title, which you used to make your predictions.

2. Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.

- A. aesthetics
- B. awareness
- C. boost
- D. branch out
- E. canopy
- F. crown
- G. cycle
- H. designated
- I. discounted
- J. expand
- K. habitat
- L. native
- M. nonprofit
- N. urban

- 1. to increase the force, power, or amount of (something)
- 2. to cause (something) to increase in size, range, or amount : to make (something) bigger
- 3. the highest part of something (such as a tree or mountain)
- 4. not existing or done for the purpose of making a profit
- 5. to officially choose (someone or something) to do or be something : to officially give (someone or something) a particular role or purpose
- 6. the state or condition of being aware; having knowledge; consciousness
- 7. the place or type of place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives or grows
- 8. to begin to do more different kinds of activities or work
- 9. of or relating to cities and the people who live in them
- 10. a set of events or actions that happen again and again in the same order; a repeating series of events or actions
- 11. of or relating to art or beauty
- 12. produced, living, or existing naturally in a particular region
- 13. the highest layer of branches in a forest or on a tree
- 14. to lower the price of (a product)

Comprehension

1. By 2030, how much does Vancouver Urban Forestry hope to boost the city's tree canopy by? **(Multiple Choice)**
 - a) 5 percent
 - b) 10 percent
 - c) 18 percent
2. According to Emma Stammer, the Vancouver Neighborhood Trees coordinator with the nonprofit Friends of Trees, the canopy cover of a typical Pacific Northwest city should be 40 percent – **true or false?**
3. What did Emma Stammer say is to blame for the city's shrinking canopy, particularly in East Vancouver?
4. Give two examples of the benefits of urban canopy cover that Emma Stammer mentioned in the article.
5. How many times a year do Friends of Trees volunteers set out to different areas of Vancouver to help plant trees?
6. Friends of Trees has planted more than _____ trees and native shrubs in the Portland metro area over the past 26 years. **(Multiple Choice – choose the best answer)**
 - a) 100,000
 - b) 250,000
 - c) 500,000
 - d) 1 million
7. Homeowners buy _____ trees through the nonprofits Neighborhood Trees program and then plant them during the _____ planting event for their neighborhood. **(Fill in the blanks)**
8. Volunteers must live in the central Vancouver neighborhoods in order to participate in the program – **true or false?**
9. Cynthia Thornton-Tang, who volunteers with the program, said she was impressed by the way the program helps build what?
10. Why did Cynthia Thornton-Tang say she joined the program in 2008?

Additional Activities

1. Read the following quote from the article "*It's a really great community-building event, and a chance to meet your neighbors,*" Stammer said. "*Improving the canopy is just like the cherry on top of everything.*" Then journal about the following questions: What does community mean to you? What are some ways you have helped build a sense of community in your neighborhood? Why do you think community building is important?
2. After reading the article, do you think tree planting programs are important – why or why not? Find out more about tree planting programs in your neighborhood or city and how to get involved. Below are some links to various tree planting programs.

Seattle reLeaf: <http://www.seattle.gov/trees/treesforneighborhoods.htm>

Arbor Day Foundation: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/>

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 11
- B. 6
- C. 1
- D. 8
- E. 13
- F. 3
- G. 10
- H. 5
- I. 14
- J. 2
- K. 7
- L. 12
- M. 4
- N. 9

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

- 1. b) 10 percent
- 2. True
- 3. Urban development
- 4. Improved air quality, improved water quality, lowers people's stress, decreased energy costs, provides wildlife habitat, increases property values **(Answers may vary – only two examples necessary)**
- 5. Four times a year.
- 6. c) 500,000
- 7. discounted, designated
- 8. False
- 9. She was impressed by the way the program helps build community.
- 10. She joined the program after her son began volunteering and she was impressed by the work that was being done.