



Activity: Plant a Tree



Materials: Hand trowel if planting a seedling, shovel if planting a larger tree, peat moss and compost to lighten and enrich the soil if it is of poor quality, mulch, water

- 1.) Choose a location for planting your tree. Keep in mind the eventual size of the tree when it reaches maturity, both height and spread. Make sure you are not digging in an area containing underground wires or cables and check to see that the tree will not be growing into overhead wires or too close to a building.
- 2.) Dig a hole approximately three to four times the diameter of the root ball, deep enough to cover the root zone. If planting a tiny seedling, covering the roots all the way to the trunk is all right. If planting a larger tree with a burlap bagged rootball, cover only up to the point where the roots flare out from the base of the tree. Covering the roots all the way to the tree trunk may deprive the roots of oxygen or lead to trunk decay.
- 3.) Press the soil down lightly around the planted tree. Packing the soil eliminates aeration of the soil, necessary for the development of healthy roots.
- 4.) Once the soil is in place, water the tree by running a hose to the site and letting the water slowly run out of the hose, allowing it to sink evenly over the root system. Organic mulch may be applied 2 to 4 inches deep over the planting area, but not touching the trunk of the tree. Keep the tree well-watered during the first year of growth until it is firmly established.

Source: *Totally Tree-mendous Activities* by Sarah Hollister