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## EARTHTALK FOR YOUNG READERS

### Week of 10/31/2004

From Stacy Clark, Youth Editor of E/The Environmental Magazine

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### Dear EarthTalk, Young Readers: How do trees recycle air?

—Wyly L., Aspen, CO

Wyly, trees and plants are like natural air filters because they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and use it to convert sun energy, water and minerals into food they can use. A byproduct of this process is oxygen, which trees release back into the air for you and me to breathe.



◆ Ask an Environmental Question

◆ Editors, bring EarthTalk Young Readers to your newspaper or website!

Rainforests are often called the “lungs of the planet” because the trees there are capable of producing 30 percent of the world's oxygen! This natural exchange (or recycling) of carbon dioxide for oxygen is a vital environmental process that helps to make the air we breathe cleaner and healthier. And forests everywhere around the world also play an important role in terms of balancing and safeguarding our air supply.

Working to protect trees around the world is just as important as working to reduce air pollution from electrical power plants and manufacturing facilities. So, one suggestion of mine would be that for your next birthday, you consider asking your family or friends for a tree. Really! You can plant it together, and then watch it grow as you grow, too! The tree will help make the air you all breathe cleaner and healthier. During the holidays, you can give trees as gifts to your friends and family too! You can contact Arbor Day to buy and send trees as gifts: <http://www.arborday.org/gifttrees/index.html>

**GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION?** Send it to: EARTH TALK for YOUNG READERS, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit your question at: [www.emagazine.com](http://www.emagazine.com); or e-mail us at: [stacy@emagazine.com](mailto:stacy@emagazine.com).



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