Planting Trees To Help the Planet

Will you be planting a tree on Arbor Day? That's how students in many schools plan to celebrate Arbor Day -- a day set aside each year to encourage the planting and caring of trees.

While you are planting a tree on Arbor Day, a group called American Forests will be planting trees around the world. This year, American Forests plans to plant 3 million trees. The group will plant 200,000 trees in California to replace trees destroyed by fire. More than 55,000 longleaf pines will be planted in Florida to provide new habitats for endangered species. And hundreds of thousands of trees will be planted in Oregon to provide habitats for birds and to protect the endangered bull trout and other fish. The group also plans to plant trees in Mexico and other countries.

NEWS WORD BOX

encourage   endangered
air conditioning   favor
measurement   register

Whether you're part of a group planting one tree or 3 million trees, you're doing Earth a big favor. Trees help keep Earth's soil, water, and air clean. They remove pollution from the air. They help keep soil from washing away. Trees also are homes for animals and provide shade over ponds and streams to keep the water cool for fish. Trees in a yard can shade a home, which can help cut the cost of air conditioning a home in half.

The very first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska in 1872. Do you know when people in your area celebrate Arbor Day? Most places celebrate Arbor Day at planting time. That's why the date for Arbor Day can change from state to state.

MORE FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN FORESTS
- Some students measure trees in their community on Arbor Day. They report their measurements to the people at American Forests, which keeps track of the biggest tree of every species. The National Register of Big Trees is updated every year. You can find it online at *www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/*

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Students in your school have decided to plant
a tree on Arbor Day. How will you decide what kind
of tree to plant? Where will you plant it?