



iREAD: Plant a Seed, Read!

Monday, May 21

10:00 AM Mountain Time

This webinar will be recorded



Welcome & Introductions

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Agenda

- Icebreaker
- iREAD 2026 Summer Theme Overview
- NASA Highlight: Artemis Moon Trees
- GLOBE Observer: Trees
- NASA Highlight: Growing Beyond Earth
- Hands-on Activity: Life on Mars? Nurturing Life
- Rewilding Activities
- Discussion and Q&A





Icebreaker

Share in the chat:

What is the most unique plant you have ever grown?

2026 iREAD[®] Summer Reading Program



Created by: Jory John & Pete Oswald



Artist: Hatem Aly



Artist: Wendy Xu



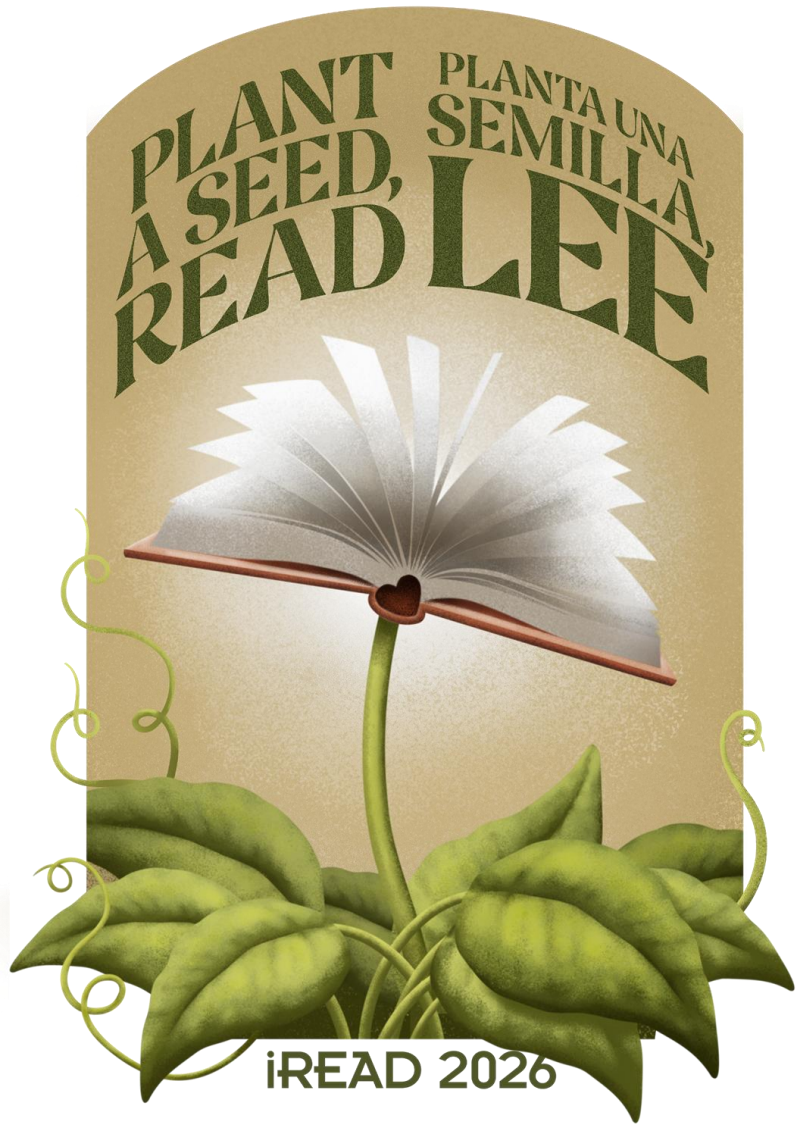
Artist: Sarah Ferone



SINCE 1981
iREAD
BY LIBRARIANS FOR LIBRARIANS

PLANT A SEED, READ • PLANTA UNA SEMILLA, LEE





Mission Statement

Plant a Seed, Read is rooted in the concept of farm to table. A farm grows food that nourishes our bodies; a library grows ideas that nourish our minds. Both food and stories connect us to our family, culture, economy, and ecology. iREAD 2026: *Plant a Seed, Read* will provide a context for exploring culture, history, science, health, and human connection.

NASA - GLOBE (pg. 319-233)



Trees: Connecting Science, History, and Community

Trees provide a versatile and engaging theme for library programs. Whether your audience is families, children, youth, or adults, tree-themed activities provide affordable, fun, and meaningful programming. Libraries of all sizes and locations can leverage tree-related topics to easily branch into iREAD 2026: *Plant a Seed, Read*.

NASA's Moon Trees

Did you know there are Moon Trees here on Earth? While these trees did not grow on the moon, they are connected to NASA's mission of exploration and discovery as far back as Apollo and as recently as the Artemis I test flight.

On January 31, 1971, NASA launched the Apollo 14 spacecraft. Astronaut Stuart (Stu) Roosa, the command module pilot and a former USDA Forest Service smoke jumper, brought along hundreds of tree seeds in his personal kit (Photo right courtesy NASA). Once returned from lunar orbit, the seeds were germinated and grown into seedlings by the USDA Forest Service. They were eventually planted across the United States, many as part of 1976 bicentennial celebrations. For a time, the locations of many of the trees were a mystery. Thanks to an inquiry from a third-grade teacher in 1996,



NASA planetary scientist and lunar historian Dr. David Williams launched a campaign to locate the Apollo Moon Trees, leading to the Apollo 14 [Moon Tree database](#) and historical archive describing Moon Tree milestones.

Fast forward to the Artemis I launch on November 16, 2022, where trees are again an important part of a space mission. As a tribute to Apollo 14 and in celebration of the future of space exploration, NASA [partnered with the USDA Forest Service](#) to fly nearly 2,000 tree seeds of five different species aboard the Orion.

An open call by NASA in Fall 2023 resulted in more than 1,000 applications from libraries, schools, museums, universities, and community organizations to serve as Artemis I Moon Tree Stewards. These [Moon Tree Steward organizations](#) are doing more than cultivating the trees. They are preserving important science history artifacts

GLOBE Observer

Trees



How Tall Is Your Tree? Measuring Tree Height with Different Tools

Participants will investigate and record data about trees by learning how to measure tree height. They will learn how to measure trees using a variety of scientific tools, including a measuring tape, a clinometer, and the GLOBE Observer app.

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to learn how to collect tree information to assist in studying the health of trees, forests,

Time

45-60 minutes

GLOBE Observer

Trees



Stories Trees Tell Learning the Language of Our Tall Forest Friends

Participants learn about tree ring growth, how this data helps understand more about a tree, then write their own tree ring stories, with each ring representing one year in their life.

GLOBE Observer

Trees



Be a Tree Detective How to Identify Trees

The learner will use their senses to explore a tree by looking for specific indicators of the tree's identity. They will take note of the tree's **habitat** and the overall shape of the tree. Then they will explore parts of the tree, including bark, leaves or needles, flowers, fruits, **seed pods** and cones. They will collect information about their tree by taking pictures or sketching items. They may also choose to collect tree parts that are on the ground (not from the living tree) such as nuts, leaves, or flowers. The learner will learn how to use a field guide to identify their tree.



Needles



Scales



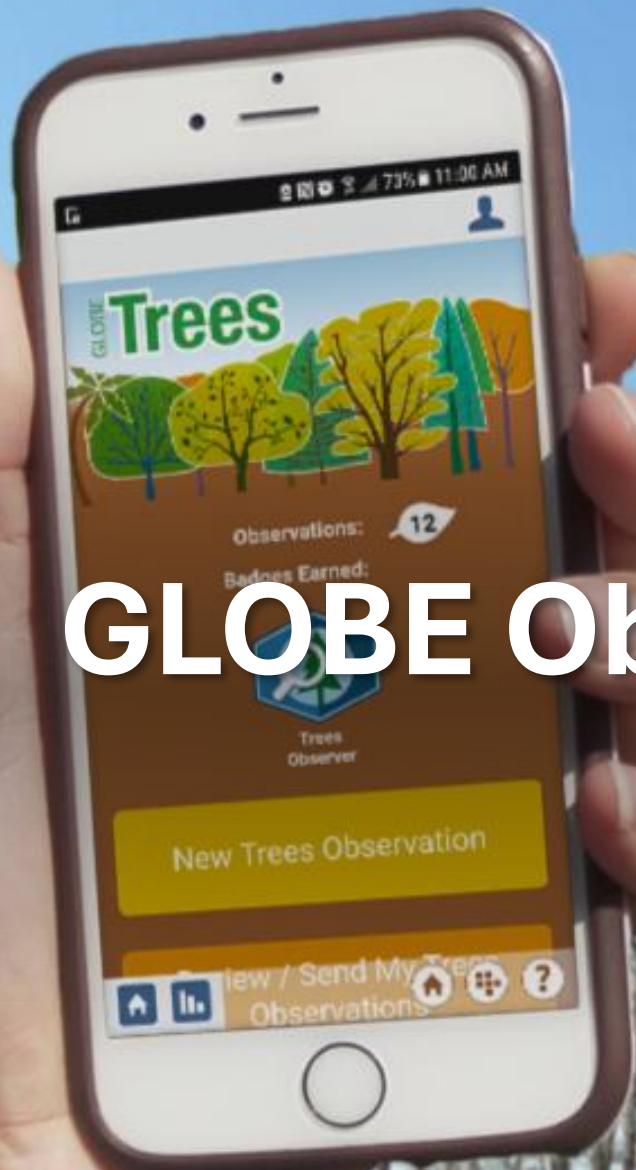
Leaves





NASA Highlight: Apollo and Artemis Moon Trees

- More than a half-century ago, NASA astronaut Stuart Roosa, the command module pilot for the [Apollo 14](#) mission and a former U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Services smoke jumper, carried tree seeds into lunar orbit. The Apollo 14 Moon Trees were grown into seedlings by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Services and eventually disseminated to national monuments and dignitaries around the world, with a large number distributed as part of the nation's bicentennial event.
- In a nod to the legacy of Apollo 14, and a celebration of the future of space exploration with NASA's Artemis Program, a "New generation" of Moon Tree seeds traveled into lunar orbit aboard the Orion spacecraft. The seeds travelled thousands of miles beyond the Moon spending about 4 weeks in space before returning to Earth.
- See Artemis Moon Tree Stewards (including libraries!) here: <https://www.nasa.gov/learning-resources/artemis-i-moon-tree-stewards/>
- Apollo Moon Tree Locations can be found: <https://science.nasa.gov/resource/apollo-moon-trees/>



GLOBE Observer: Trees

Kristen Weaver

Crowd Sourcing Program Analyst



The GLOBE Program

Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) is a 30 year old program enabling participants in 127 countries to collect data and upload their observations to a freely accessible database.

Sponsored by:



Supported by:





the app of **THE GLOBE PROGRAM**





NASA has a **unique view**
of **Earth** from **space**.
Your view is unique, too.

Contribute to NASA's incredible library of Earth science data
using the GLOBE Observer app.



Trees

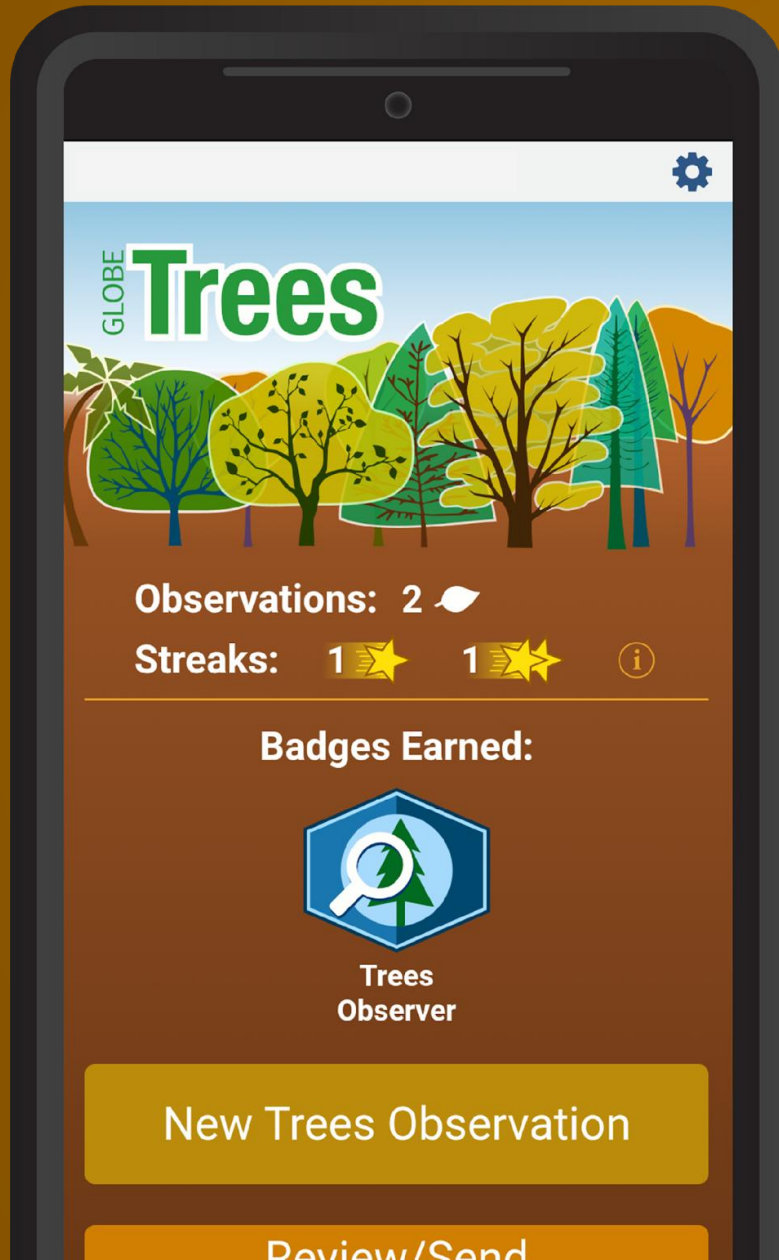
Trees play an important role in the global carbon cycle. As they grow, they absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

Hundreds of tree seeds orbited the Moon during the Apollo 14 mission. Trees grown from these seeds were planted across the US in the 70s.



 **Greenbelt, MD**





- Tilt your phone to measure the angle between the top and bottom of the tree.
- Count your steps while walking to the base of the tree.
- The app will calculate the height of the tree for you.

With the height, circumference, and species, you can estimate how much carbon is stored by an individual tree using a tool like iTree.

Toolkit for Informal Educators

observer.globe.gov/toolkit

- Activities and Demonstrations
- Videos and Presentations
- Printables and Promotional Materials

NUBE is a card game designed to help people learn the different cloud types.

NPS/Edwige Moses



NASA Highlight: Growing Beyond Earth

Jemma Peterson



Hands-on Activity: Life on Mars? Nurturing Life



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Life on Mars? Nurturing Life

A garden can be a reminder of life's needs and our connection to the planet we call home. Children consider the requirements of living things and compare the surface conditions on Mars to those found on Earth as they plant gardens. Gardening tips and options for indoors and outdoors are provided.

[Open Activity](#)

[How-to Video](#)

[Implementation Guide](#)

[Teacher's Guide](#)



[Write a review](#)

Content Area

Engineering

Age Group

Family

Early Elementary

Upper Elementary

Tweens (9-12)

Time to Complete Activity

1-2 hours

Time needed to prep Activity

20-40 minutes

Cost associated with Activity Materials

\$1-\$5

Difficulty Level (by content)

Medium

Mess Level

Medium

[Report a broken link](#)

[Categorized Incorrectly? Let us know!](#)

<https://clearinghouse.starnetlibraries.org>

Rewilding Activity Collection

- Hands-on STEM activities relating to nature
- Celebrate biodiversity
- Hone observation skills
- Developed in partnership with HHMI's Tangled Bank Studios and SciStarter



Rewilding Activities



For Patrons: A Guide to help nature reclaim its space



Library Facilitation Guide



Create a Sign



Bioblitz at the Library

Additional hands-on nature STEM activities!

Discussion

Share in the chat:

What are you most excited about for iREAD's Plant a Seed, Read summer theme?



Thank you!

Any questions?

