

# ECO-BENEFITS POSTER

TREE STRUCTURE AND BENEFITS Grades: K-8

## Overview (communicated by teacher):

Trees offer an incredible number of benefits to our community. They support the ecosystem by creating habitats which improve biodiversity, purify the air through photosynthesis, and improve soil quality. They provide us with food like nuts and fruit as well as physical goods like lumber and paper. Trees can regulate the health of our environment by lowering air temperatures through evapotranspiration and shading, help control flooding by mitigating stormwater runoff and filtering out dust and grit from the air. Finally, trees offer many cultural benefits. They are aesthetically pleasing to look at and smell (like a mountain laurel or Desert willow), they provide recreational opportunities such as rope swings, hammocks and climbing, and offer educational opportunities.

## Method:

### 1. Introspection and Instructions:

Have your class take a moment to enjoy sitting under near trees while discussing their ecological benefits and the ones that they are most grateful for.

### 2. Forming Groups for Poster:

Split into small groups or work independently to create a poster displaying the benefits they find the most helpful or important at their school campus.

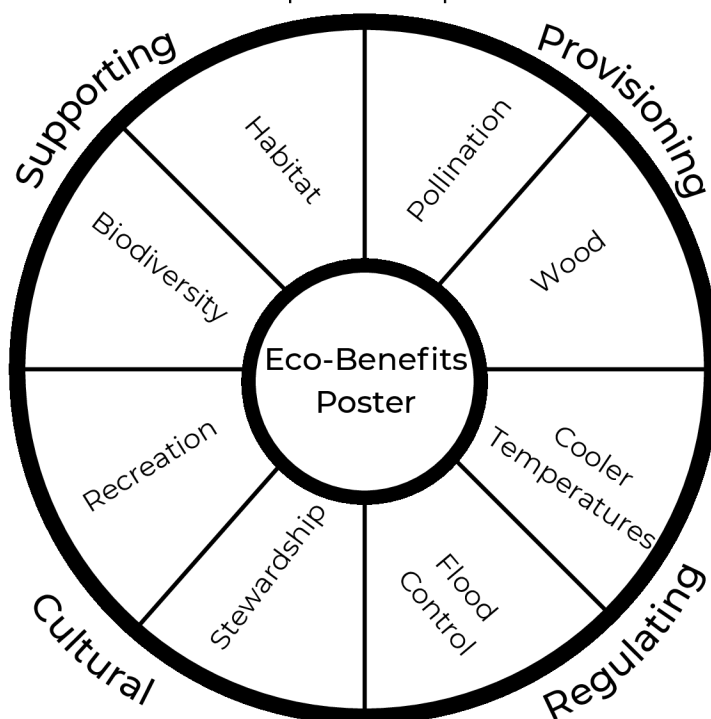
### 3. Ecological Thoughts:

Have students consider if there are certain types of trees they would like to see more of in order to accomplish an ecological goal.

### 4. Poster Creation:

Students can express their views through writing or drawing to complete the template on page 4.

5. Optional- after completing the poster, students can draw their favorite tree.



## At a glance

### Skills:

Critical Thinking  
Teamwork  
Discussion  
Urban Forestry

### Lesson Delivery:

(Best/Suggested method in bold)

- Whole group
- **Small group**
- **Independent work**

### Location:

(Best/Suggested location in bold)

- Outdoor
- **Indoors**

### Materials:

Necessary

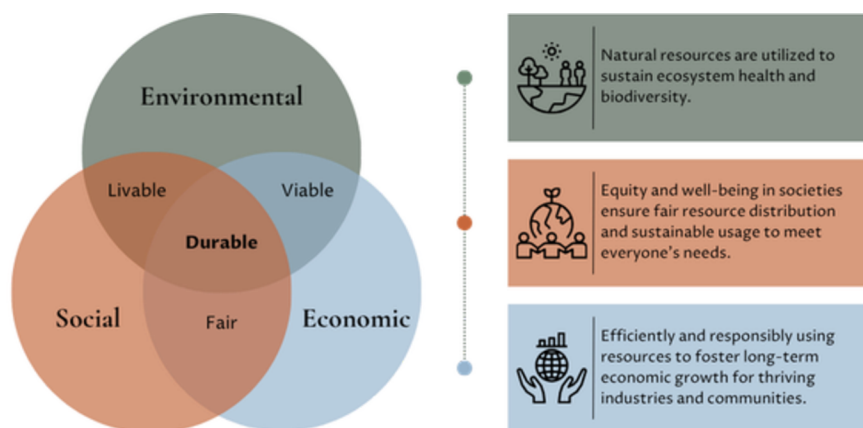
- Paper
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Table/writing surface

Optional

- **Posterboard**

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Graphic by Texas A&M Forest Service

## Modifications & Extensions

**K-2\***

### **Modification: Use Picture-Based Brainstorming**

Teachers can lead groups of students to organize information, students can also create a collage, dream board, or pie chart of the eco-benefits poster or have students choose just one or two sections of the pie to draw a picture of.

### **Extension: Create a Thank You Card for a Tree**

After discussing the benefits of trees, have students pick their favorite tree on campus and create a thank-you card addressed to it. Encourage them to include drawings and a few dictated or written sentences about what they love most.

**3-5\***

### **Modification: Thought Organization**

Teachers can lead groups of students to organize information, students can also create a collage, dream board, or pie chart of the eco-benefits poster. Students can show a tree in all 4 seasons to illustrate their differences

### **Extension: Campus Tree Improvement Proposal**

Ask students to include on their poster one idea for how their school could add or improve tree coverage—like planting more shade trees, fruit trees, or sensory trees (like ones with nice smells or textures). Students can present their ideas to the class.

**6-8\***

### **Modification: Incorporate a Venn Diagram Pre-Activity**

Before designing their posters, have students complete a Venn diagram comparing ecological vs. cultural benefits of trees. This will help them think critically and organize their ideas before selecting which benefits to focus on.

### **Extension: Persuasive Poster with Campus Impact Focus**

Challenge students to turn their posters into a persuasive campaign piece. For example, “Why Our School Needs More [Tree Species]” or “How Trees Are Saving Our Campus.” They can include facts, benefits, and a call to action for their peers or administration.



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**Complete the brainstorming template below. Using this information, create a poster illustrating the importance of trees and how they improve the environment.**

List two ways trees **support** the environment:

(hint: how does the biology of trees help the environment?)

List two ways trees **provide** for the environment:

(hint: what do trees give to the environment?)

List two ways trees help **regulate** the environment:

(hint: how do trees and forests help the world around them?)

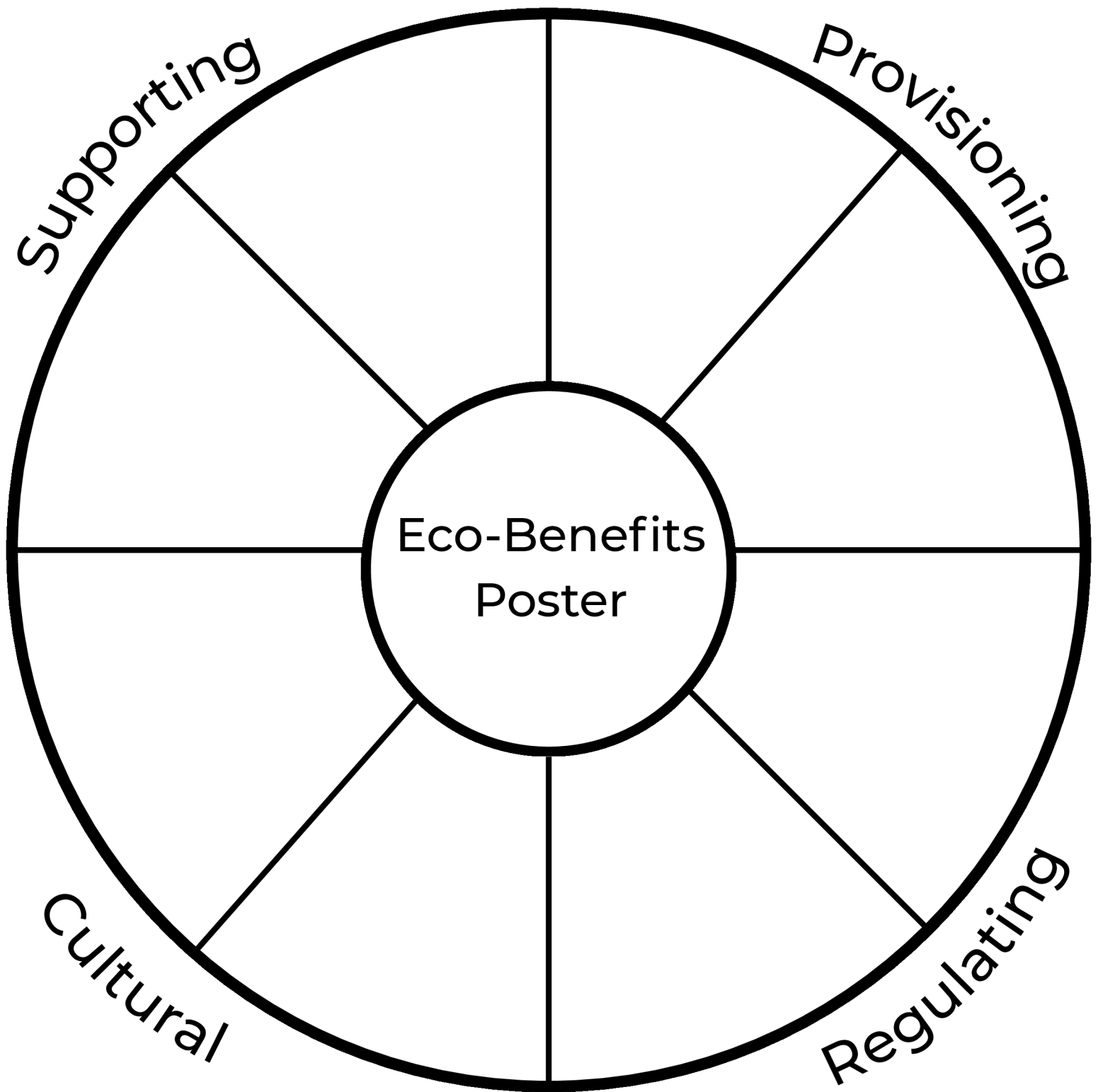
List two ways trees **culturally enhance** the environment:

(hint: how are trees good for people?)

Once you have completed this brainstorming exercise, write or draw your answers on the template on the following page.

List some activities you enjoy doing in trees (climb, swing, lounge etc.):

Explain your favorite tree on campus, and why:





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## ELAR and Science TEKS Alignment

| Module                         | Lesson                  | Science TEKS Alignment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2: Tree Structure and Benefits | 5.1 Eco-Benefits Poster | K.1A, K.5A, K.9A, K.10A, K.12A<br>1.1A, 1.5A, 1.9A, 1.10A, 1.12A<br>2.1A, 2.5A, 2.9A, 2.10A, 2.12A<br>3.1A, 3.5A, 3.9A, 3.12A, 3.13A<br>4.1A, 4.5A, 4.10A, 4.12A, 4.13A<br>5.1A, 5.5A, 5.10A, 5.12A, 5.13A<br>6.1A, 6.5F, 6.9A, 6.11A, 6.12A<br>7.1A, 7.9A, 7.11A, 7.13A, 7.12A<br>8.1A, 8.5F, 8.11A, 8.12A, 8.13A |
|                                |                         | ELAR TEKS Alignment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2: Tree Structure and Benefits | 5.1 Eco-Benefits Poster | K.1A, K.2A, K.5A, K.6A, K.7A<br>1.1A, 1.2A, 1.6A, 1.7A, 1.5A<br>2.1A, 2.2A, 2.5A, 2.6A, 2.7A<br>3.1A, 3.2A, 3.5A, 3.6A, 3.7A<br>4.1A, 4.2A, 4.5A, 4.6A, 4.7A<br>5.1A, 5.2A, 5.5A, 5.6A, 5.7A<br>6.1A, 6.2A, 6.5A, 6.6A, 6.7A<br>7.1A, 7.2A, 7.5A, 7.6A, 7.7A<br>8.1A, 8.2A, 8.5A, 8.6A, 8.7A                       |