

Rappin' about Trees

This rap has two parts, one is printed in italics and the other in normal type. Both parts join on the chorus. A wordless rap beat playing in the background will make it easier for the rappers to move and talk to a beat. Try this in your classroom with two puppets or two students. Or have students write their own rap!

Let us tell you a story about a wonderful tree that grew for years as happy as could be.
Had plenty of rain for it to drink
and lots of room for its roots to sink.

It had soil that was rich and sweet
full of nutrients for it to eat.

Plenty of space to stretch and grow
nothin' to hurt it high or low.
It grew taller and wider and stronger too
and used carbon dioxide out of the blue.

The leaves in the canopy waved in the wind.
The roots pushed outward and anchored it in.
The trunk grew thicker and rounder too
and the branches stronger and longer grew.

Chorus:

It's the 21st century— time to act!
Raise your hand and make a pact!
Conserve, be smart and plant a tree
Make the world better for you and me!

The tree gathered boarders as time went by,
birds and bugs and a butterfly
lived their lives among the leaves
sharing their space with a hive of bees.

A raccoon or two set up house,
a squirrel found a spot and so did a mouse!

A worm and an ant carved a place underground
where they lived in peace without being found
by birds and bugs that liked to dine
on worms and ants that taste so fine-fried!

A family of beetles burrowed into the bark
where they were safe and the world was dark.
Until the woodpeckers found them and
went to work and pulled them out with a
jerk, jerk, jerk...

(I hate it when that happens!)

Chorus:

It's the 21st century— time to act!
Raise your hand and make a pact!
Conserve, be smart and plant a tree
Make the world better for you and me!

This tree's been around for a decade or three
and provides great shade for you and me.

We can build a tree house or tie a swing
up in the branches
and not hurt a thing!

We can have a picnic and get out of the heat
when we need to rest *and are ready to eat!*

When a summer storm becomes a threat
we can hide under the branches
and not get wet!

The roots help keep the soil in place
on the ground and out of our face.

The sounds of the highway
get lost in its leaves
and even a wind will change to a breeze
(when it blows through).

Chorus:

It's the 21st century— time to act!
Raise your hand and make a pact!
Conserve, be smart and plant a tree
Make the world better for you and me!

This old tree has been a really great friend
but I know someday that it won't bend
it'll fall to the earth and spend its days
giving to the soil in a million ways.

As the old log rots and turns to ground
seeds will sprout and grow around!

In the fertile soil the log will make
new growth will come and nature take
everything she needs to redesign
this rotting log into something fine!

There's a job for you within this rap
something you can do to fill the gap
between the rotting log and the healthy tree
there's a wonderful op-por-tun-ity
to provide the future with what you've had
figure it out and you'll be glad!

Knowing how important this is to me
you can do one thing—plant a tree!—
or two—or three!

Chorus:

It's the 21st century— time to act!
Raise your hand and make a pact!
Conserve, be smart and plant a tree
Make the world better for you and me!

