

词汇: *nature* 大自然

There's nothing better than a walk in the **countryside** for **lifting our spirits**. Connecting with nature has been proven to help our mental health. For some, the best **tonic** is to stroll through a **forest**, but as we admire the trees that surround us, it's worth knowing these trees are doing more than just being nice things to look at.

We're already aware of the **healing properties** of trees – they produce **oxygen** and clean the air we breathe by absorbing about a quarter of all human-caused **carbon dioxide emissions**. **Deforestation** isn't helping with this which is why so many people want to save them. But there's more to these impressive forms of **vegetation** than we might think. Researchers have discovered evidence that proves they are actually intelligent.

It's thought that trees talk and share **resources** right under our feet, using a **fungal network**. Under the ground are **tree roots**, and mingling among them, along with **bacteria**, are thousands of superfine threads of **fungi**, known as **hyphae**. And research has shown that they are all interconnected. They can help each other by sharing **nutrients**, and they can even warn of approaching threats. Scientists say it's like the trees are talking to one another.

Ecologist Suzanne Simard has called this network the **Wood Wide Web**. She discovered that parent trees use this network to help their **offspring**. Speaking to the BBC, she said: "We found that the parent trees would favour those **seedlings** that were of their own **kin** versus the strangers" by sending them more nutrients. She also found that trees are smart enough to change their behaviour and have managed to adapt and survive in a changing environment.

So it seems trees really are the stars of our natural world, and with around three trillion of them on our planet, it's time to show them some respect if we want them to **flourish**.

词汇表

countryside	郊外, 乡下
lift one's spirits	振奋精神
tonic	使人精神振作的事情
forest	森林
healing properties	治疗功效
oxygen	氧气
carbon dioxide emissions	二氧化碳排放
deforestation	毁林, 大面积砍伐森林
vegetation	植被, 植物
resources	资源
fungal network	真菌网络
tree root	树根
bacteria	细菌
fungi	真菌, 真菌类植物
hyphae	菌丝
nutrient	养分, 营养物
Wood Wide Web	“树联网”
offspring	后代, 产物
seedling	幼苗
kin	同族, 亲戚
flourish	茁壮成长

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What can being surrounded by nature help us with?
2. How do trees help improve the air quality?
3. How do parent trees help their offspring to survive?
4. True or false? *Trees talk to each other by using thousands of superfine threads of fungi under the ground.*
5. Why do trees need to adapt if they want to survive?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. Watching the comedy film really _____ after a hard day at work.

lifting my spirits	lifted my spirits	lift my spirits	lifted my spirit
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2. To survive in the modern world, the business has to _____ its working practices.

absorb	hyphae	adapt	resources
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3. My brother and his _____ always come over for dinner on Sundays.

offsprung	offsprings	offsprang	offspring
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4. None of the crops grew because there was a lack of _____ in the soil.

nutrients	bacteria	roots	seedlings
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5. Australia's Great Barrier Reef is one of the wonders of the _____.

nature world	natural worlds	naturing world	natural world
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What can being surrounded by nature help us with?

Being connected with or surrounded by nature has been proven to help our mental health.

2. How do trees help improve the air quality?

Trees clean the air we breathe by absorbing about a quarter of all human-caused carbon dioxide emissions.

3. How do parent trees help their offspring to survive?

Doctor Suzanne Simard said that parent trees would favour those seedlings that were of their own kin as opposed to the strangers by sending them more nutrients.

4. True or false? *Trees talk to each other by using thousands of superfine threads of fungi under the ground.*

True. Trees talk to each other using thousands of superfine threads of fungi, known as hyphae, which are all interconnected.

5. Why do trees need to adapt if they want to survive?

They need to adapt because the environment is changing.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. Watching the comedy film really **lifted my spirits** after a hard day at work.

2. To survive in the modern world, the business has to **adapt** its working practices.

3. My brother and his **offspring** always come over for dinner on Sundays.

4. None of the crops grew because there was a lack of **nutrients** in the soil.

5. Australia's Great Barrier Reef is one of the wonders of the **natural world**.