

Hello everyone, my name is Remington Miklos, I'm from Custer, and I'm here today to tell you what a tree does for me. A tree serves many purposes for me and my family. My 1st and favorite purpose is a Christmas tree. For one month out of every year we have a real tree in our house. The tree is a beautiful decoration that brightens up my home. It's a family tradition as well- my family and I decorate the tree together every year. Finally, the tree brings joy to us Christmas morning through all of the thoughtful gift's underneath. Wrapping paper is what hides and disguises our presents before the big day, the paper is made from trees. Wrapping paper is also used for birthdays, weddings, and special occasions. On the subject of gifts, there is one gift in particular that I always enjoy receiving- money. Money is made out of paper and we all know where paper comes from.

Trees were and still are a way of living for grandparents, great-grandparents, and even my late great, great grandma. They have been in the logging industry for about 80 years. My great, great grandmother was the second woman in the Black Hills to own and run a sawmill without a husband. Through the logging industry, she was able to provide for her two boys and create jobs for them as they got older. Logging allows for houses to be built, firewood to be cut, and a clean forest. Firewood, not only heats my home and keeps me warm but, allows me to have campfires and create new memories with my family. These memories are passed down year by year and will always be cherished. Trees are what makes my yard look so beautiful. They provide us with shade in the summer, which not only creates a relaxing environment but, keeps us from getting sunburned. In my yard we also have an apple tree and a pear tree. Two years ago, our apple tree produced over 100 apples and we ate them raw, baked apple crisp, and made apple sauce. The pear tree produces good fruit too. Some of the kitchen utensils I use every day are made from wood and because of them, cooking is way easier. Because of trees I have bar stools, nice furniture, a gun cabinet, a reloading bench, china hutch, and a desk to do schoolwork on. I can rest easy on my nice bed because it is made out of wood. It has cabinets and drawers which make for easy storage purposes.

When I was younger, I practically lived in the fort in my back yard. It is made up of trees. One day I decide I wanted to add an additional level. A few weeks later my dad and I went to our family's sawmill along with my grandpa to gather the lumber needed to make my second level. I was extremely excited to build it and through the lumber I was able to practice using a drill. When it was finished, I was proud of what I had created. I have used it for so many years and now I know that my little brother will have lots of fun using it. Because of good lumber, my family has a great deck to sit on during the summer. Its where we can read, eat, and spend quality time together.

Another way that my family spends time together is by hunting. Trees produce air and animals use air too. Animals are a key item in my family's diet. We eat wild animals as well as domestic. When hunting we use our surroundings and living in the Black Hills there are lots of trees. We hide behind trees to sneak up on deer and elk. Once our hunt has been successful, we bring our game home where we'll hang them up in tree to be skinned and cool off.

Trees are like big straws. Through soil, they soak up the moisture from the ground and bring it to the top of the tree. From there they release it into the atmosphere. They also pull the moisture out of the atmosphere when they need it. This is a component of our water cycle.

In conclusion, without trees, our Christmas traditions, gift wrapping techniques, currency system, my family's way of living, and camping memories would all look different. To say that trees are important would be an understatement. Trees are how we get clean air to breathe. Trees are used to make the materials necessary to build a house. Trees are how part of my family makes money. I couldn't imagine a world without trees, things would seem so flat and everything would be smoggy.