

# The History of Arbor Day

All over the world, people are planting trees in their yards and in their communities, caring for them and learning about their value. Here in the United States, we call this tree planting festival Arbor Day. In other lands, you may hear it called Arbor Week, Tree Holiday or Tree Festival. In Japan, it is called Greening Week.



In Israel it is called the New Year's Day of the Trees. Iceland has a Student's Afforestation Day. This means "to change open land into forest." Whatever people call this special time of year, they are sharing the news that trees are important to us all, wherever we live.

The idea for Arbor Day came from a man named Julius Sterling Morton from Nebraska City, Nebraska. Morton and his wife, Caroline, were among the pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854. Having lived in Detroit where they were surrounded by trees, they grew up being lovers of nature.

Morton was the editor of Nebraska's first newspaper. With writing at his fingertips, he used the paper to share his enthusiasm for trees. Morton promoted tree planting and care, as well as environmental stewardship (taking care of the Earth) and how all of life is interrelated. Through the newspaper and his speeches, he encouraged everyone to set aside a specific day to plant trees.

In 1872, the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture accepted a resolution by him "to set aside one day to plant trees, both forest and fruit." With this first tree planting holiday celebration, J. Sterling Morton became known as the Father of Arbor Day. Today, Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states and around the world. In Wisconsin, Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April.

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## Directions:

- Use the essay above to help you answer the questions in Section A. Write the answers in the squares.
- Use the answers from Section A to match the letters and numbers in Section B.
- To help you get started, some of the letters have already been given.

## Section A

- The name of the tree-planting celebration in Japan.

6	2	10	10	7	23	7	6	9	10	10	24

- The city where J. Sterling Morton began to promote tree planting.

N											
7	10	18	2	22	25	24	22	5	23	8	4

- J. Sterling Morton's profession.

			T		
10	14	23	8	20	2

- Taking care of the Earth.

25	8	10	9	22	2	14	25	12	23	15

- The month when Arbor Day is celebrated in Wisconsin.

	P			
22	15	2	23	13

## Section B

Use the answers from Section A to fill in the letters below to answer the following question:

**What wonderful things do trees give us?**



	X				
20	17	4	6	10	7

25	12	22	14	10	

			U		
18	10	22	16	8	4

Answers: **Section A** - 1. GREENING WEEK, 2. NEBRASKA CITY, 3. EDITOR, 4. STEWARDSHIP, 5. APRIL  
**Section B** - OXYGEN, SHADE, BEAUTY

