

Ethiopia plants 350 million trees in 12 hours

3rd August, 2019



Ethiopia has broken the world record for the largest number of trees planted in one day, while simultaneously making the world a little greener. Ethiopians planted more than 350 million trees in just 12 hours earlier this

week. This smashed the previous record, held by India, by 50 million trees. Ethiopia's minister of innovation and technology announced his country's record-breaking feat on Twitter. He proudly revealed that people had planted 353,633,660 trees in a bid to help the environment. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who participated in the tree planting festivities, congratulated everyone involved in the record for their efforts and for doing their bit for the planet.

Ethiopia's record-breaking achievement is part of a wider strategy of planting 4 billion trees between May and October. The country is well on its way to achieving this goal. So far, volunteers, businesses and government workers have planted more than 2.6 billion trees nationwide. Ethiopia is attempting to reverse the cutting down of many of its forests. The Farm Africa organization reports that less than 4 per cent of Ethiopia's land is forested. This is a sharp decline from the 30 per cent of land on which trees grew at the end of the 19th century. A recent study reported that planting billions of trees was the cheapest and most effective way to absorb carbon dioxide and thus help to tackle global warming.

Sources: cbsnews.com / treehugger.com / nation.co.uk

Writing

Everyone on Earth should plant at least one tree every year. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

world record / trees / earlier this week / India / innovation / environment / planet / achievement / volunteers / government workers / forests / land / 19th century / CO2

True / False

- a) The article said Ethiopia has helped make the world a little browner. T / F
- b) The previous tree-planting record was held by China. T / F
- c) The record-breaking feat was announced by the government on Twitter. T / F
- d) Ethiopia's prime minister did not take part in the tree planting. T / F
- e) Ethiopia has a plan to plant four billion trees. T / F
- f) Ethiopia is over half-way in meeting its tree-planting strategy. T / F
- g) Less than four per cent of Ethiopia is forested. T / F
- h) Planting trees is an expensive way of tackling global warming. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. broken | a. fight |
| 2. simultaneously | b. change |
| 3. previous | c. accomplishment |
| 4. innovation | d. earlier |
| 5. participated | e. overturn |
| 6. achievement | f. shattered |
| 7. reverse | g. reduction |
| 8. decline | h. soak up |
| 9. absorb | i. at the same time |
| 10. tackle | j. joined in |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What is your experience of planting trees?
- b) Why are trees so important?
- c) What kind of trees are there near where you live?
- d) What do you think of the record of over 350 million trees planted?
- e) Why doesn't every country plant millions of trees?
- f) How much will the trees help the environment?
- g) What do you know about Ethiopia?
- h) In what way are you doing your bit for the planet?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Ethiopia has broken | a. land is forested |
| 2. simultaneously making the world | b. feat on Twitter |
| 3. Ethiopia's minister of innovation | c. for the planet |
| 4. announced his country's record-breaking | d. to absorb carbon dioxide |
| 5. doing their bit | e. achieving this goal |
| 6. part of a wider | f. a little greener |
| 7. The country is well on its way to | g. of many of its forests |
| 8. reverse the cutting down | h. the world record |
| 9. less than 4 per cent of Ethiopia's | i. strategy |
| 10. the cheapest and most effective way | j. and technology |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How great is it that Ethiopia will plant 4 billion trees?
- Why doesn't the world restore all forests cut down by humans?
- In what other ways can we tackle global warming?
- Should laws be passed to stop companies cutting down trees?
- How green is the area in which you live?
- What is your favourite tree, and why?
- What questions would you like to ask the tree planters?

Spelling

- the algsert number of trees
- This smashed the eusorvpi record
- Ethiopia's minister of atnnnivoio
- He proudly learevde that
- congratulated everyone elvnodiv
- the record for their ftofse
- part of a wider etygsrat
- well on its way to ngcaeihvi this goal
- vrneoletsu, businesses and government workers
- vrreese the cutting down of many of its forests
- This is a sharp eicdnel
- the cheapest and most vfetiecf way

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. b	5. j
6. c	7. e	8. g	9. h	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Apple Trees

You think apple trees are the best trees. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their trees. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pine trees, palm trees or mahogany trees.

Role B – Pine Trees

You think pine trees are the best trees. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their trees. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): apple trees, palm trees or mahogany trees.

Role C – Palm Trees

You think palm trees are the best trees. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their trees. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pine trees, apple trees or mahogany trees.

Role D – Mahogany Trees

You think mahogany trees are the best trees. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their trees. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pine trees, palm trees or apple trees.

Speaking – Trees

Rank these with your partner. Put the best trees at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • maple tree | • apple tree |
| • cherry tree | • palm tree |
| • banyan tree | • oak tree |
| • mahogany tree | • pine tree |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.