

## Ecology Day – World Environment Day – June 5<sup>th</sup>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Frank Prevôt is a French author who loves telling stories for kids. His books convey the idea that young people can be change-makers in their communities. "It's so important to show kids that they are an important and decisive part of humanity," says Prevôt.

His latest book, *Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees*, tells the story of an environmental activist and Nobel prize winner Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan woman who has had an important role in her country.

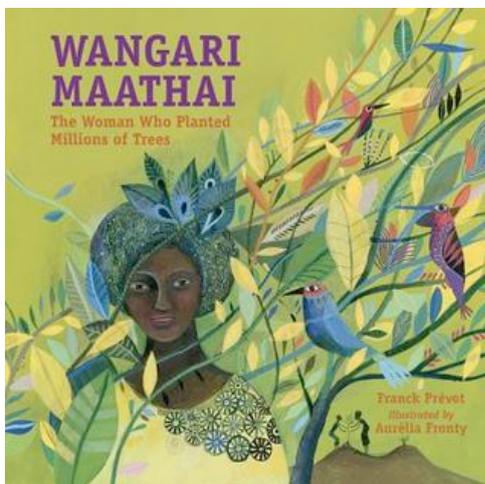
Mainly, she fought to replant trees where big companies, like tea producers and wood merchants, had cut so many of them. She was also elected as Kenya's assistant minister of environment, natural resources, and wildlife and even won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

The French author wanted to write a book to show readers that "young people are a gift to their communities and indeed the world," in the words of Maathai. And, of course, that everybody can do something to protect forests.

According to Prevôt, "kids have so many things to offer the world — they are inquisitive, and are so concerned with social justice and the environment. They could sometimes even show adults the way!"

He also said that children can make a difference in the world by taking "every opportunity to talk to each other about the best ways to build a society in which people really work together and take care of the environment".

(Adapted from <http://www.timeforkids.com/news/seeds-hope/234351/>. Accessed on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015)



### 1. Choose the best alternative.

What's the meaning of change-makers in paragraph #1?

- a) People who accept changes.
- b) People who are responsible for performing changes.

**2. Why is Wangari Maathai an important woman?**

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**3. Why did Wangari want to plant trees?**

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**4. In your opinion, why does Wangari Maathai say “young people are a gift to their communities and indeed the world”?**

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**5. How can you take care of the environment?**

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**6. Do you know anyone in your country or community who fights for the environment?**

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**7. It's time for you to take action! Take pictures of places in your community showing good ways of taking care of the environment or the opposite, places that really need help. The pictures will be part of a slide show in the classroom. Suggest a name for this activity.**

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**Target audience (age):** Ensino Fundamental 2, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades

**Aim:** get more information about Ecology and Environment Day and how some people are helping the environment

**Duration:** 50 min

**Organization:** individual work

**Material:** worksheet

**Preparation:** make copies of the worksheet

### **Information for the teacher:**

**When:** June 5<sup>th</sup>

**Celebration:** *The first Environment Day was created by the UN in 1972.*

**What do people do?** *There are several ways of celebrating Environment Day like organizing clean up campaigns, art exhibits, tree-planting drives, concerts, dance recitals, recycling drives, social media campaigns and different contests themed around caring for the planet*

### **Procedure:**

- Warm up students by having a discussion on ecology. Ask them if they know anyone who helps the environment either with simple actions or with more consistent ones.
- Tell students they're going to read a text about a woman who has been an example of how each and everyone can help the environment.
- Hand out the worksheets.
- Ask students to read the first paragraph and talk about it.
- Do the same with all the other paragraphs.
- Encourage them to bring pictures taken by them in order to have an exhibition in the classroom.

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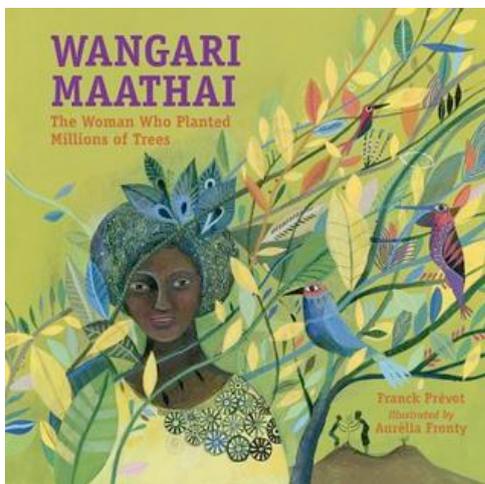
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### 1. Choose the best alternative.

What's the meaning of change-makers in paragraph #1?

a) People who accept changes.

*b) People who are responsible for performing changes.*

**2.** Why is Wangari Maathai an important woman?

*She is an environmental activist and Nobel Prize winner from Kenya. She fought to replant trees where big companies, like tea producers and wood merchants, had cut so many of them.*

**3.** Why did Wangari want to plant trees?

*To replace the trees tea producers and wood merchants cut out.*

**4.** In your opinion, why does Wangari Maathai say “young people are a gift to their communities and indeed the world”?

*Kids have so many things to offer the world — they are inquisitive, and are so concerned with social justice and the environment. They could sometimes even show adults the way!*

**5.** How can you take care of the environment? *(Answers will vary, but some ideas are: help adults become aware of the need of taking care of the environment, save electricity and water, reduce the consume, don't waste materials)*

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**6.** Do you know anyone in your country or community who fights for the environment? *(Answers will vary, but some ideas are: WWF, local NGOs dedicated to ecology, Instituto Akatu or other specific actions in their communities)*

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**7.** It's time for you to take action! Take pictures of places in your community showing good ways of taking care of the environment or the opposite, places that really need help. The pictures will be part of a slide show in the classroom. Suggest a name for this activity. *(Answers will vary.)*

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