



Be a Scientist!

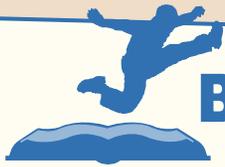
Make a model of a baobab tree.

Choose your own materials.

You might use paper, clay,
or other art supplies.

Show the parts of the tree.

Also show animals that live
in or visit the tree.



Beyond the Book

Ask an adult to help you use
the Internet. Learn about
another kind of tree that
helps animals get the things
they need.

FOCUS Book

Baobab Trees



: Science A-Z 

Baobab Trees



FOCUS Question

How do baobab trees help other living things?

Systems and System Models

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Baobab Trees

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Reading Levels

Learning A-Z	K
Lexile	430L

Correlations

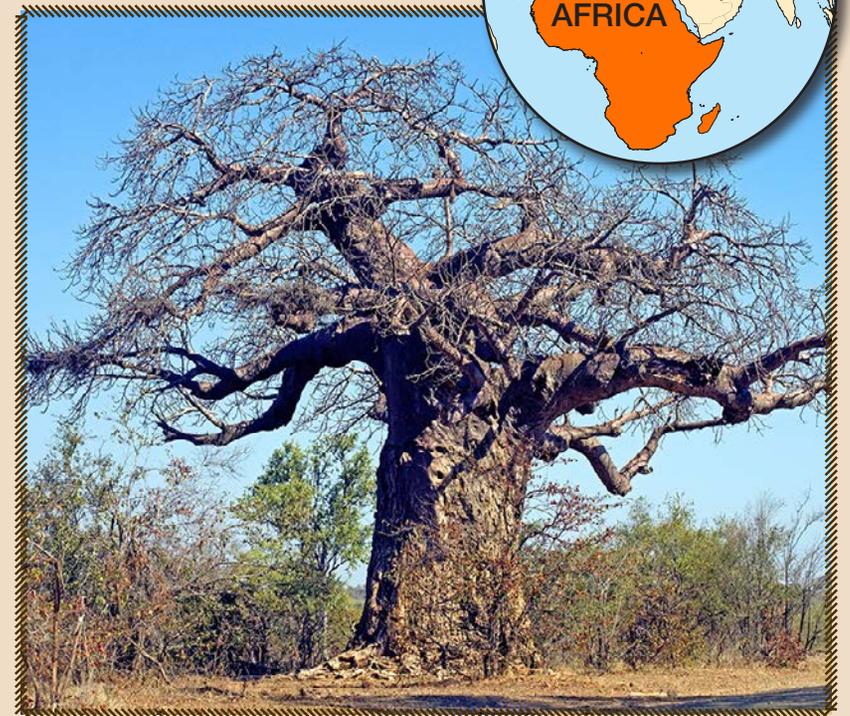
Fountas and Pinnell*	J
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*Correlated independent reading level

Very Old Trees

Baobab (BAY-oh-bab) trees are living things. They are plants.

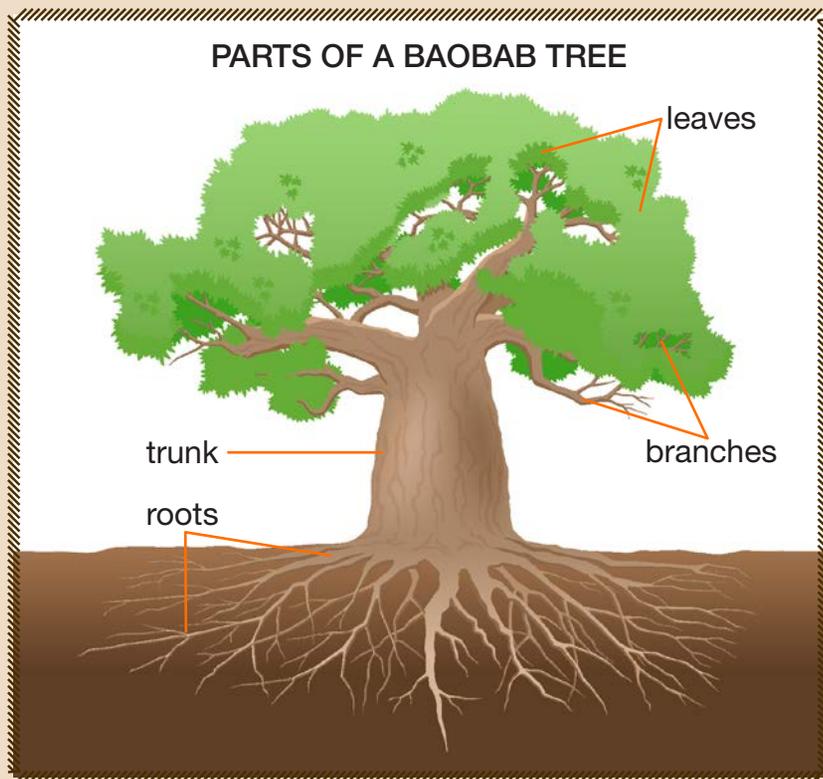
Some parts of Africa have baobab trees. These trees can live for a very long time!



Some baobab trees are more than one thousand years old!

What Do Baobabs Need?

Like all plants, baobabs need water, light, and air. Their roots take in water from the soil. Their leaves take in light and air. This is how a baobab tree grows to be big and strong.



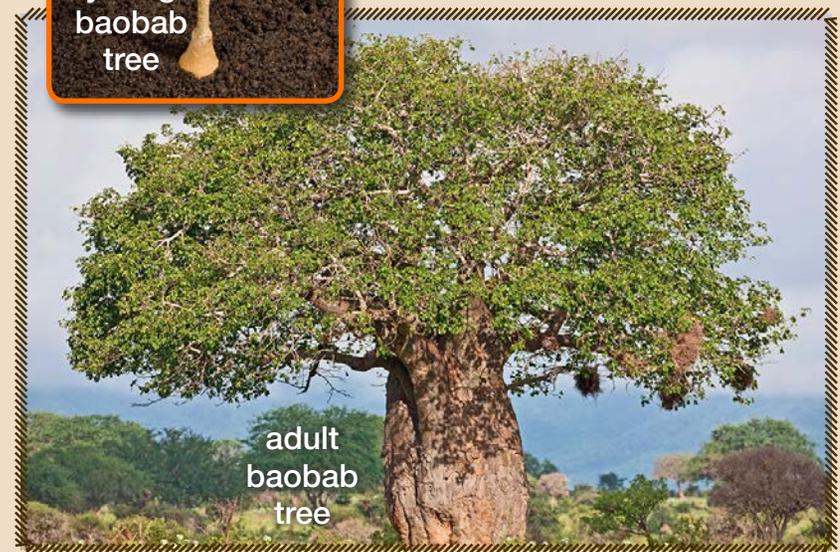
Large Trunks

A baobab tree grows from a seed. The young tree is small and thin. Over time, it grows and grows. The trunk becomes very thick. When it rains, the trunk soaks up a lot of water.



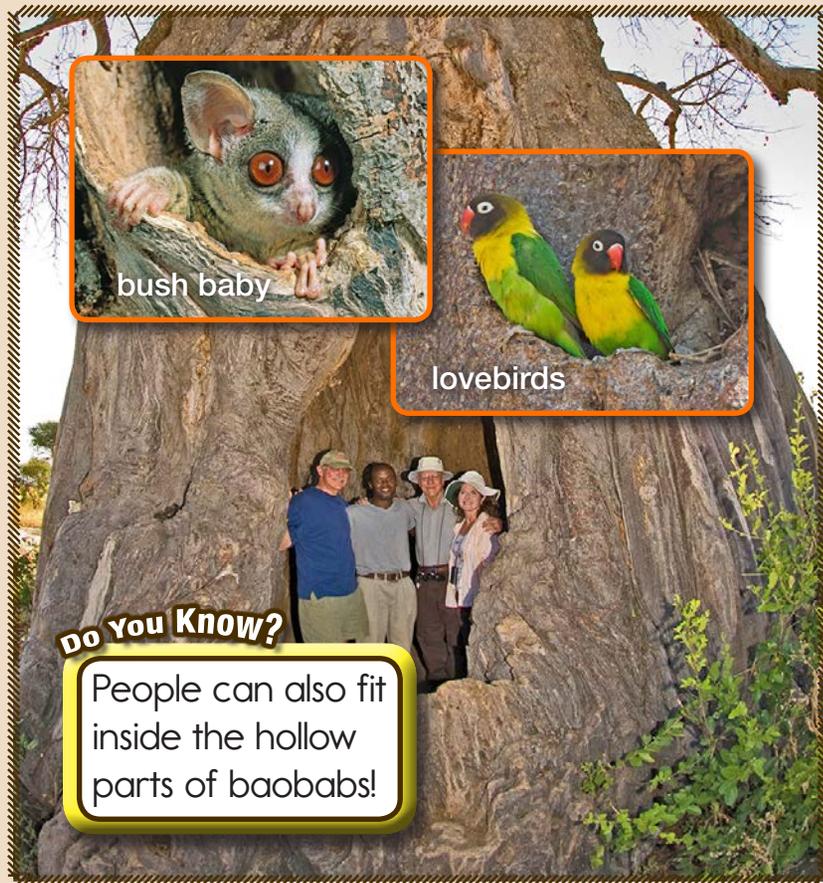
wowser!

An adult baobab tree can hold up to fifteen bathtubs full of water!



Hollow Homes

A baobab can be *hollow*. It can have an open space inside the trunk. The tree becomes hollow as it grows older. Sometimes animals live inside the trees.



In the Branches

Many living things find homes on the outside of these trees. Birds make nests on the branches.

The branches have many tiny holes. Small animals find places to live in these holes.



Tree Visitors

Many animals visit the baobab tree.

Birds sit high in the tree to see far away.

Elephants eat the leaves and get water from the trunk.

The tree gives animals shade from the hot sun.



African elephant



Impalas use this baobab tree for shade.

Smelly Flowers and Furry Fruit

Baobabs have large white flowers.

Bats like the smell of the flowers.

They come to drink the nectar inside.

The flowers turn into fruit. The fruit is furry! It has lots of seeds inside.



Baobab fruit hangs from the tree.

A fruit bat drinks nectar from a baobab flower.

A New Baobab Tree

Many animals eat baobab fruit. The animals carry the seeds to new places. The seeds start to grow in the ground. Soon there will be new baobab trees!

HOW A NEW BAOBAB TREE GROWS



- 1 Seeds on the ground are ready to grow.



- 2 Seeds sprout in the ground.



- 3 A new baobab tree starts to grow.

Read-Think-Write

Write or draw your answers on separate paper. Use details from the book to support each answer.

- 1 Name two things that baobab trees need to live.
- 2 Look at the diagram of the baobab tree on page 3. Which part of the tree has leaves?
 - A stork
 - B love bird
 - C antelope
- 3 Which animal lives in the hollow part of the baobab tree?
 - A stork
 - B love bird
 - C antelope
- 4 Imagine that baobabs grow near where you live. How might the animals that live there use the trees? Give at least two examples.

FOCUS Question

How do baobab trees help other living things? Choose two animals shown in this book. Explain how each animal uses baobab trees.

