Trees, Trees, More Trees, Please

Problem: It's getting hotter and there isn't enough shade …at the lunch tables or in the play yard or when we line up. Can we safely plant a tree and which type?

1. **Conduct a tree investigation**.
   - Compare and contrast an area without a tree and one with a tree. How do they differ? How might people, animals, or the Earth be affected? What can we measure? What tools might we need?
   - Take a tour of your school yard, neighborhood, and notice the trees. Describe how they are similar, how they differ. Take a closer look at a tree, what do you see? What are the parts of a tree? Draw what you see. What questions do you have? What could you measure on your tree?
2. **What are the benefits of trees?**
   - https://canopy.org/tree-info/benefits-of-trees/.
3. **Learn more about trees with activities.**
   - https://observer.globe.gov/do-globe-observer/trees/resource-library
4. **Learn about the trees in your area**.
   - This website allows you to enter your address to find trees and other plants native to your area and much more: https://calscape.org/
   - Use this key to identify the type of trees in your area: http://urbantreekey.calpoly.edu/
   - For information on Santa Rosa's recommended street trees visit: bit.ly/2FGEWNH
   - Lessons about native oaks in the North Bay and planting guidelines: https://naparcd.org/acorns-to-oaks-kit-for-teachers/
   - Resources in Spanish: https://www.treepeople.org/trees/
5. **Ask an expert** to visit or speak to your class.
   - University of California Master Gardener Programs provide guidance on appropriate trees or plants to use in specific growing conditions.
     - Sonoma County http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/ ,
     - Mendocino County http://cemendocino.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardener/
     - Marin County http://marinmg.ucanr.edu/
6. **What is required to plant and maintain a tree?**
   - https://canopy.org/tree-info/caring-for-trees/
   - https://www.sactree.com/learn
7. **Where to purchase trees?**
   - This site provides a map of native plant nursery locations for all of California: https://calscape.org/plant_nursery.php
   - In Sonoma County: https://www.urbantreefarm.com/
   - In Marin County: https://www.marincounty.org/depts/pw/divisions/creeks-bay-and-flood/mcstoppp/nurseries
   - In Mendocino County, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens: https://www.gardenbythesea.org/visit/retail-nursery/
8. **Join a citizen scientist effort.**

- One example project would allow you to help NASA scientists study trees from space using satellites, which measures forests using lasers. Tree height and circumference measurements can help scientists understand how carbon moves through ecosystems: https://observer.globe.gov/do-globe-observer/trees
9. **Get inspired by the work of others making a difference with trees**:
    - In Boston, this group is helping create a more just city by planting trees: https://treeboston.org/.
    - The Arbor Day Foundation provides free trees to areas hit hard by natural disasters https://www.arborday.org/programs/community-tree-recovery/?Trackingid=404 .