



**How do you think these trees grew these ways?**





Trees have been around for an estimated 370 million years and individuals survive for ages! Whether they're growing in the middle of gale-force winds, on the tops of rocky platforms, inside concrete tunnels, or even growing out of each other, these beautiful plants survive in places where no other life finds a way. Our planet is host to around 3 trillion adult trees that cover an estimated 30% of the earth's surface. According to the USDA, one large tree can provide the oxygen needed for up to four people for a full day!

This natural phenomenon in which trunks, branches, or roots of two trees grow together, is called **inosculation**.

These trees are referred to as **gemels** from the Latin word meaning "a pair" or "twin."



This is an upside-down fig tree in Bacoli, Italy. No one is sure how it ended up this way. Year after year it continues to grow downward and even bears figs!