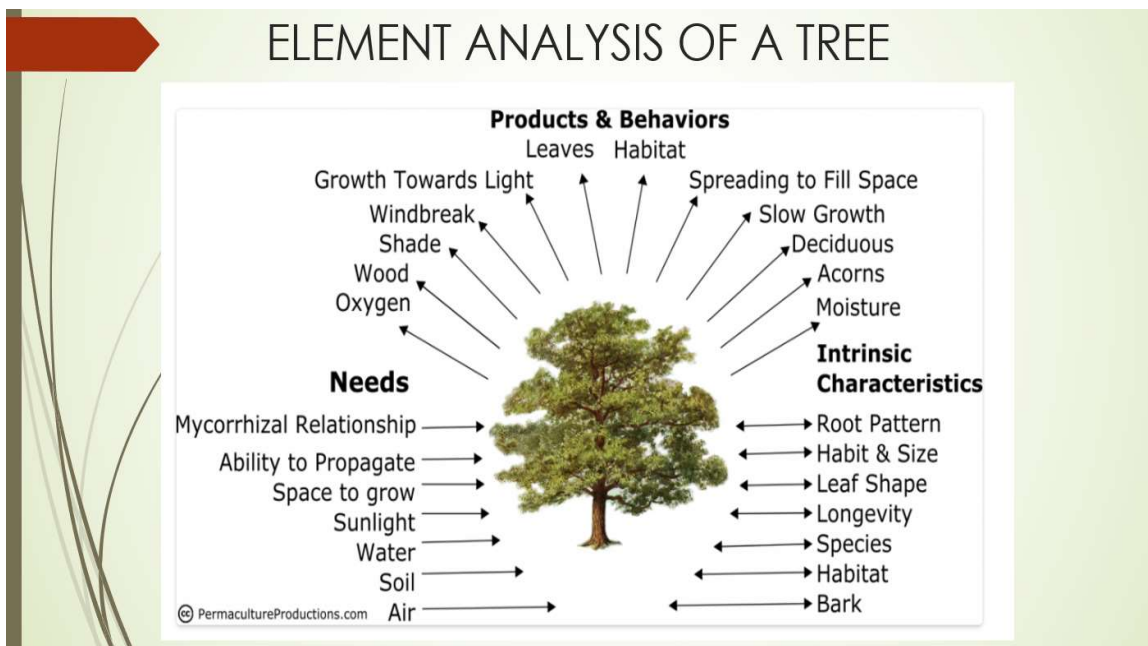
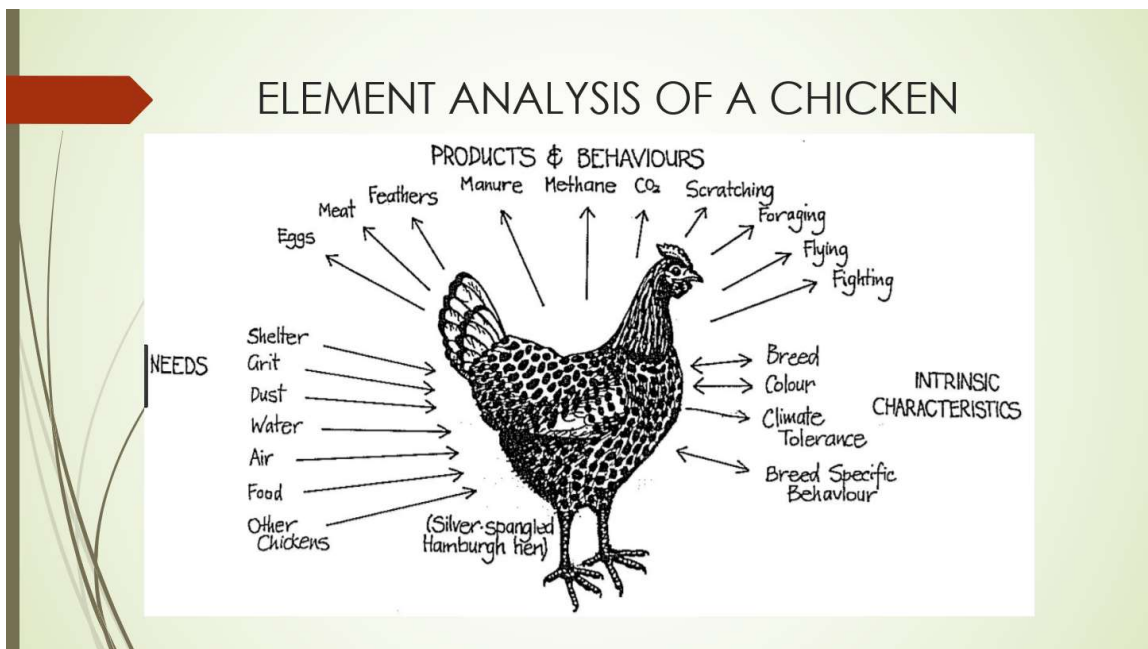


An “element” in a permaculture design, is simply a thing. Wheelbarrow, shed, house, apple tree, chicken, do, swing set. They’re all elements. An element analysis or “functional analysis” is an integral part of the permaculture design process. It allows us to really understand each and every element within a design and how it can then be used to integrate and support other elements.

For example. A chicken’s behaviour of scratching, foraging and producing manure can be used to fertilize and aerate a future veggie garden or perhaps under a tree. They provide eggs to eat, feathers full of nitrogen for our compost, and comical behaviour that gives us a laugh. An acorn tree, provides structure for the soil, erosion control, shelter for the chicken, a windbreak for a house, food and habitat for wildlife, filtration of the air, carbon (leaves in winter) for the soil, and summer shade. The tree and the chicken support each other as well as other elements within the design.



**Element Name**

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**Element Characteristics**

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**Needs**

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**Products or outputs**

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**Functions**

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**Top three needs**

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**Three other elements meeting that need**

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**Top three products**

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**Three other elements using products**

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**Top three functions**

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**Three other elements using this function**

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