

# Boredom Busters Bitez

## TREMENDOUS TREES

Today's theme is all about trees! Trees are found everywhere throughout the world. Some grow very, very big, and others grow small. Some trees are super thin and others are super wide. Trees are important because they provide lots of different useful things. Trees provide air, shade, shelter for animals, and wood!

Today's fun includes an exercise on the lifecycle of trees, handy dandy leaf identification cards, a matching game, and a craft to build a forest!

# Circle of Life

Trees grow from seeds like all other plants. Unlike other plants they take much longer to fully grow. Follow along with the tree's life stages below. Color in the illustrations as you read each life stage.



## Decomposing

Eventually snags decompose. Decomposed trees provide lots of nutrients to the environment. These nutrients help new trees grow big and strong!



## Snag

A snag is the remnant of a fallen or dead tree. Snags are important because they provide food and shelter to small critters and organisms.



## Seed

All trees start as seeds. Seeds can come in the shapes of acorns, pods, and pinecones. Seeds are important because they carry the DNA of the tree.



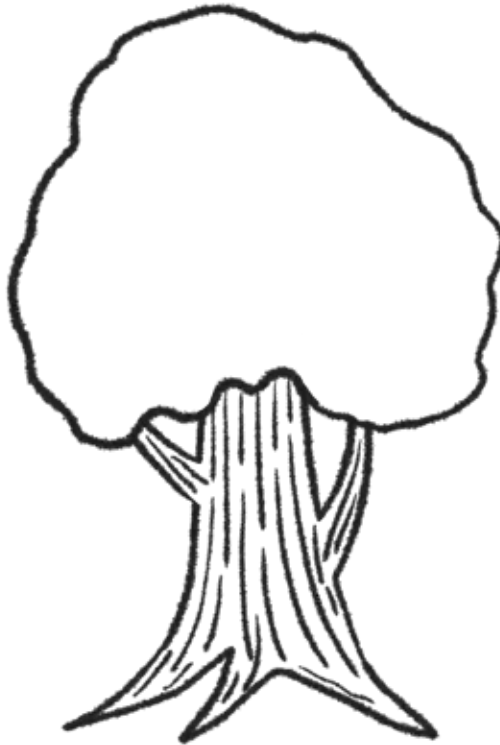
## Seedling

Once the seed begins to grow it grows into a seedling. A seedling must grow fast to make sure it can get as much sun and water as it can.



## Sapling

With lots of sun and water a seedling grows into a sapling. Saplings have slender trunks and begin to grow branches.



## Mature

When a sapling grows bigger, stronger, and more limbs and leaves it becomes a mature tree. It takes years for trees to mature. When trees mature they start producing seeds to keep their species alive.

# Leaf Identification

There are over 60,000 different types of trees! Sometimes it's difficult to tell trees apart. Especially when they grow together in a forest. One of the easiest ways to tell trees apart is by looking at their leaves. Different trees grow different types of leaves! Use the leaf identification chart below to identify the trees in your neighborhood!



**Sugar Maple**



**Red Cedar**



**White Pine**



**Sycamore**



**Dogwood**



**White Oak**



**American Beech**



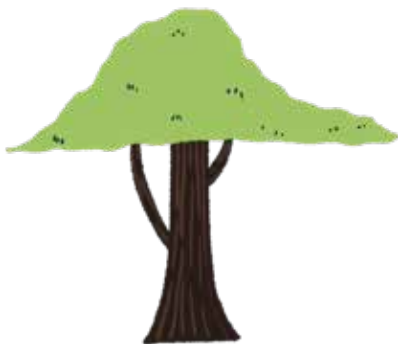
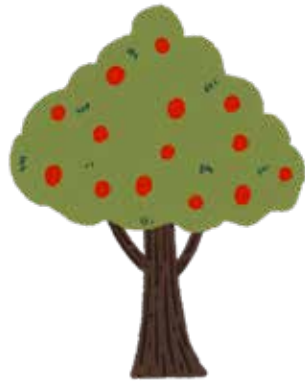
**Birch**



**Black Willow**

# Match the Shadows

Trees provide lots of shade. Shade is very important on a hot and sunny day during the summer. The temperature under a tree's shade can be 10-15 degrees cooler than in the sun. Some trees provide more shade than others!  
Draw a line to match the trees with their shadows below!



# Toilet Paper Forest

Forests are beautiful. Forests exist on every continent in the world except Antarctica. Forests are full of different trees and plants. They are important because they provide food and shelter to lots of different animals. Without forests the planet wouldn't be the same. Show some love to the trees by making your own recycled forest indoors!

## MATERIALS



TOILET  
PAPER TUBE



CRAYONS &  
COLORED PENCILS



PAPER



SCISSORS

## INSTRUCTIONS



Use the scissors to cut the green paper into the shape a tree top.



Use the crayons and colored pencils to draw leaves on the tree top. You can also draw fruits, flowers, and animals!



Use the scissors to cut two slits in the toilet paper tube. The two slits should be cut downward on one end to the tube. The slits should be opposite from one another too.

Slide the tree top into both slits.



### **FAST FACT**

Different parts of trees grow at different times.

Leaves grow in the spring, trunks grow in the summer, and roots grow in autumn and winter!

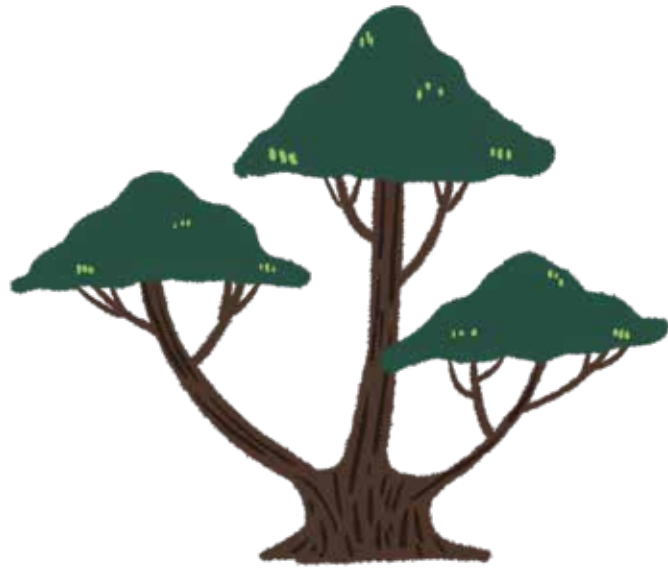
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### **TIME TO BUILD A FOREST!**

Use up all of your recycled toilet paper and paper towel tubes to make your own forest! Be sure to make lots of different types of trees! Make trees of different sizes and heights too! When you're finished put your forest on display for all to appreciate!

**KEEP IT GOING!**  
**Experiment**  
**making trees with**  
**tree tops that are**  
**different shapes!**  
**Observe the shapes**  
**of tree tops of**  
**different types**  
**of trees.**





**Boredom Busters Bitez is an extension of our previous publication, Boredom Busters. Instead of one large publication, we will release three different Boredom Buster activities. Each issue is a different theme!**

**For more resources and activities for children, please visit [buckslib.org](http://buckslib.org)**

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