

DAY 3

NEEDLELEAF TREES



RESEARCH

1. True or False: Trees are mentioned in the Bible more than any living thing other than God and people.
2. What does Proverbs 3:18 say about trees?
3. Which trees are associated with Noah, Abraham, Moses and Joseph?

REVIEW

1. How many different kinds of needleleaf trees are there?
2. How do most spruce and fir trees grow up?
3. Are any evergreen trees deciduous?
4. To which group of plants do needleleaf belong?

REINFORCE

1. See how many different kinds of needles you can find from needleleaf trees?
2. Practice naming different types of trees on your next nature walk.
3. When you go grocery shopping for produce, notice the extra large apples and think of how Adam was to car for the fruit trees in Eden.

NEEDLELEAF TREES

It's possible to identify trees by examining the leaves. Many **evergreen** trees, such as pines and spruces, have needle leaves. These can be thin, long and straight and grow in clusters, or they can be soft and grow sparsely.

There are about 500 kinds of **needleleaf trees**. The family of needleleaf trees includes firs, pines, redwoods, and spruces. Most of them have pointed, narrow, needle-like leaves. There are a few types with narrow, scale-like leaves, like cedars and junipers.

Thought Question: In the beginning, before sin, do you think all trees were evergreen--even broadleaf trees?

"...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life. Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee..." (Genesis 3: 17(b), 18(a)).

Most needleleaf trees have a growth pattern with a strong leading shoot. Short side branches grow out of the main shoot. Most spruce trees and firs grow up tall and straight, while pine trees branch out and are not pointed at the top.

Even though most needleleaf trees are evergreen, they do make new needles each year. The older needles turn brown and drop to the ground. The younger needles stay green as they grow and do not fall.

There are a few kinds of needleleaf trees that are deciduous, meaning they lose their leaves annually. Some kinds of deciduous needleleafs are the larch tree and the bald cypress.

