Coniferous Trees Discussion and/or Activity:

1. How are coniferous trees different from deciduous trees?

_____

_____

2. What kind of coniferous trees grow in your yard? Use the <u>leaf guide</u> (below) to identify the coniferous trees in your yard or neighborhood. Or with help from an adult, use the <u>dichotomous key</u> (below) to identify your trees.

   1._____   2._____

   3. _____   4. _____

   5. _____

3. Next try the <u>coniferous tree labeling</u> sheet (below).

4. What kinds of animals do you see in and around the coniferous trees? Why do you think small mammals live in or near coniferous trees?

_____

_____

_____

5. Name three things in your house made from trees.

   1._____

   2._____

   3._____

6. Name three other uses for wood.

   1. _____

   _____

   2. _____

   _____

   3. _____

   _____

Find and Identify These Coniferous Trees

Northern White Cedar
Thuja occidentalis

Eastern Red Cedar
Juniperus virginiana

Balsam Fir
Abies balsamea

Tamarack
Larix laricina

Eastern Hemlock
Tsuga canadensis

Jack Pine
Pinus banksiana
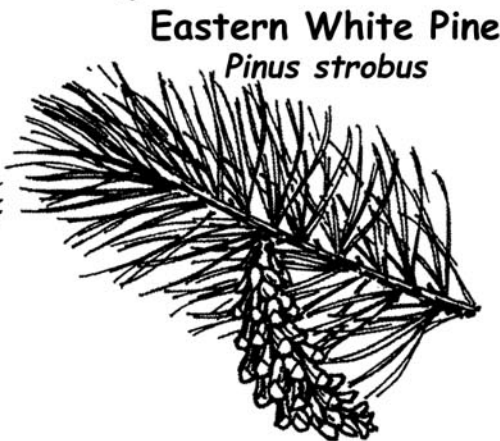
Eastern White Pine
Pinus strobus
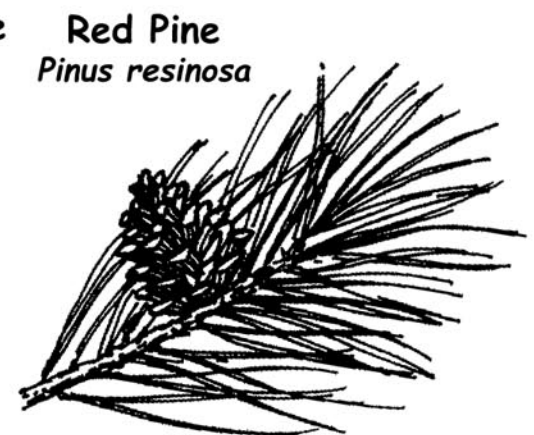
Red Pine
Pinus resinosa
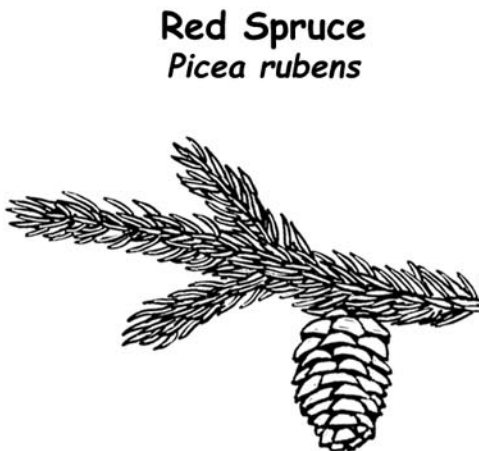
Red Spruce
Picea rubens
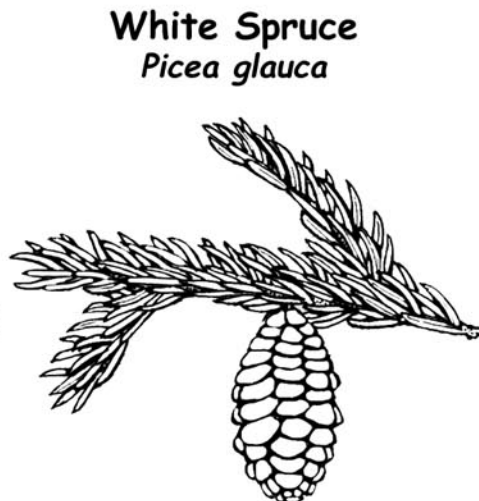
White Spruce
Picea glauca

Black Spruce
Picea mariana

TREE IDENTIFICATION KEY

Tree has needles use...use CONIFEROUS TREE KEY

Tree has broad leaves ....use DECIDUOUS TREE KEY

CONIFEROUS TREE KEY

1. Needles in bundles or groups (2)

1. Needles single or flattened and scaly (3)

    2. Needles in clusters of more than 5 needles..........................Tamarack (*Larix laricina*)

    2. Needles 2 to 5 per bundle: Pine species (see a-c below)

        a. Five needles per bundle ....White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

        b. Needles in pairs, 3 to 4 inches long.................................Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*)

        c. Needles in pairs, under 2 inches long, bark dark gray.......... Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*)

3. Needles scaly and flattened (4)

3. Needles single (5)

    4. Has cones, scales flat, branches fan-like.........Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

    4. Has berries, may have scaly and prickly needles on same tree, scales rounded.................. Eastern Red Cedar
                                                                          (*Juniperus virginiana*)

5. Needles flat (6)

5. Needles square, 4-sided, stiff, sharp: Spruce species (see a-b below)

        a. Needles 1/3 to 3/4 inch long, twigs hairless....................................White Spruce
                                      (*Picea glauca*)
        b. Needles 1/3 to 3/4 inch long, twigs have hair, grows in wet areas....Black Spruce
                                        (*Picea mariana*)

6. Needles 1/2 inch long with short petiole..............................Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

6. Needles 3/4 inch to 1 1/4 inches long, no petiole, bubbles in bark..................Balsam Fir
                                                 Abies balsamea)

Name These Coniferous Trees