

Leaves, Flowers, Fruits and Cones

There are lots of ways to identify a tree. One of the most common is looking at the shape, edges, and arrangement of its leaves. Every tree is slightly different, so this helps us work out what species it belongs to. Have you seen any of these leaves?

Lime

Ginkgo

Cypress

Pine

Oak

Flowering trees

Many trees grow flowers. Some of these are easy to see, like the pretty pink or white blossoms of cherry trees in springtime, while others are tiny and hard to spot, like those that grow on oak trees. Different kinds of flowering trees bloom at different times of the year.

From blossom to fruit

Did you know that a tree's flowers become its fruit? It's true! For this to happen, the flowers need to be pollinated. Pollination is when insects such as bees collect pollen on their bodies and move it from flower to flower, fertilizing them. Once a flower's petals have fallen off, the part that is left grows into a fruit, which has seeds inside. These seeds can grow into new trees!

Cool cones

Conifer trees such as pine, fir, and spruce grow beautiful from their flowers. Inside the tightly closed cones are the seeds. When the weather is warm enough, the cones open up and the seeds fall out and are scattered around. Some cones only open when they are rotting. Cones come in different shapes and sizes, from small and rounded to long and slender.

DID YOU KNOW?

Birds, insects, and other small animals, such as bats, make their homes in the treetops. They build nests, find food, and raise their young in the safety of the branches. Look up and see.