



Excellent Evergreens!

“Pooh: Hmmm, this is a very good fir cone, and something ought to rhyme to it. Think, think think...Now, fir cones belong in trees, up high with the buzzing bees. But this one I found down on the ground, freed by a gentle breeze! Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh! Oh, bother. I suppose I shall have to find another one.”

Like to learn? Of course you do! Last week we learned some things about **deciduous** trees--those trees that lose their leaves in the winter. Did you have a chance to look for the Octopus tree? If not it will be there for you to search for another day. Do be careful not to hurt it's tentacles (roots ;), when you do find it!

This week let's learn about trees that keep their leaves all winter long. **Evergreen** trees have leaves that people think look like needles. Most of these trees grow their seeds inside cones (we all have seen some of those on the playground, haven't we?) These types of evergreens are called **conifers**. It is no longer winter where we are, but people often think of evergreens as winter trees, because we notice them in the winter when other trees are bare. And of course many people like to put lights on evergreen trees around the holidays!

Here is a song that explains about all these different types of trees. You can sing along, if you like: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJx2xQKlgXU>

And here is our peppy teacher friend once again, to help us learn all about evergreens in a fun video for you to watch, Excellent Evergreens:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwfQEK29Wrg>

And if you are interested in being an “Evergreen Detective”, and learning to tell the different kinds of evergreens from one another, here she is again, with her friend Squeak:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFVh2fTR2XA>

Fun fact: The largest living tree in the whole world is an evergreen tree that lives in California. It is thought to weigh 3.6 million pounds, which is as much as 10 blue whales!

Have you ever wished that you were more like someone else? Maybe someone bigger or just different than you in some way? Well here is a story you might enjoy about a little fir tree who wishes his leaves looked different:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gw8t8eV85ps>

When the rain stops, go on out and notice the evergreen trees in the woods. Quick, before all those big, flashy, deciduous leaves get in the way!

Suggested walks for this week:

Evergreen trees make us think of the holidays, don't they? So how about a visit to the **Andover Highlands AVIS Reservation** and search for all the holiday ornaments the warden has kindly hung up for you to find? Here's the “**tree treasure**” **map**“ for you to follow! The trailhead is at the end of Heather Drive, off Highland Rd.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w6Ld82Ni2GNV3gV4SvIPuJLCCoJyINJ1/view?usp=>,

And here is a link to a new trail at the **Goldsmith Woodlands with a great nature math activity. Can you figure out the age of these trees??**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RRJ0zhV4garmnLDXYghzo9gC1MUH7zpl/view?usp=sharing>

[Parents: looking for a way to help your child unwind on a rainy day? Try yoga with your children. Here is a page with a short video demonstration of tree pose, and then a “be a tree” meditation for children:] Trees stay rooted to the ground. Pretend to be a tree!

<https://www.yoremikids.com/news/october-strike-a-pose-tree>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mc24izlaLqA>

Extentions for older siblings: Research online the General Sherman sequoia, and Methuselah, the bristlecone pine. Or the history of logging in early America, and the use of white pines as masts on naval ships.

Nature Observation for this week:

<https://aeon.co/videos/a-year-long-observation-reveals-the-secret-life-of-a-tree-and-its-animal-visitors> Watch what animals visit this tree in a far away forest during one whole year. It reminds us that animals move, but a tree stays put!

For LLL Preschool, AVIS, and my grandson, Carter, by Cheryl Platt McKeough