



3-D Evergreen Trees

Use this Make and Take during the winter season to introduce students to the life cycle of an evergreen tree.

Directions:

1. Discuss this easy version of an evergreen tree life cycle with your students:
 - Cone: Evergreen tree growth starts with the cone. Through wind pollination, seeds develop on the seed cone. In nature, these seeds mature and produce new evergreen trees, which can take several years.
 - Seedlings: Young trees or seedlings are planted in seed beds. Many evergreen producers purchase seedlings from specialty growers. The seedlings grow here until they are about 3 to 5 years old. After this time, the seedling is replanted in a field.
 - Evergreen Tree: While in the field, the job of the tree is to keep growing. The evergreen grower takes care of the tree by pruning and shearing it, which is like giving the tree a hair cut. The trees grow in the field for several years until they are ready to be cut or harvested. In the spring, new trees are planted and the cycle begins again!
2. Use the 3-D Evergreen Tree to review the life cycle:
 - Cut out the tree, including the tab at one edge.
 - Use a craft knife or scissors to cut a 1-inch slit along the outside edge of the tree.
 - Fold the tree in thirds along the dotted lines.
 - Then, insert the tab into the 1-inch slit.
 - Add tape along the side for extra reinforcement.

Evergreen Facts and Tidbits:

- There are over 500 evergreen tree growers in Illinois.
- In 2002, over 144,000 evergreen trees were harvested in Illinois.
- In 2002, Illinois had 6,355 acres in evergreen production.
- Two to three seedlings are planted for every harvested evergreen tree.
- 34-36 million evergreen trees were harvested in the United States in 2001.

Suggested Books:

Purmell, Ann. Christmas Tree Farm. New York: Holiday House, 2006. ISBN 0-8234-1886-3.

Zolotow, Charlotte. The Beautiful Christmas Tree. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1972. ISBN 0-618-15245-8.

Jordan, Sandra. Christmas Tree Farm. New York: Orchard Books, 1993. ISBN 0-531-07078-6.

Websites:

Find an evergreen farm in your area: <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/trees/treefarms.cfm>
Additional coniferous tree lesson plans: <http://www.realtrees4kids.org>



Evergreen Tree Poem

I am a type of tree you know
I start out small and then I grow
My roots spread deep under the ground
To help me so I won't fall down

My trunk protects me up and down
And carries all my food around
The inside part of me is dead
The outer layers grow instead

From my trunk grow many branches
This is the part of me that dances
On my branches, green needles you'll see
They use the sun, to make food for me

Do I sound like a tree you've seen?
Have you guessed?
I'm an evergreen!

From Regina Stewart



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