

# Classify and Create a Tree

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## Standards of Learning

Science: K.7, 1.4, 2.4, 2.8, 3.8, 4.4, 4.9

## Objective

The student will:

- identify basic properties, structure, and classifications of trees.
- create a pinecone tree decoration.

## Materials

- large pinecones (enough for entire class)
- glitter
- ziploc baggies
- cotton balls
- glue

## Background Knowledge

Trees are excellent examples of renewable resources. They are used to make paper products for us but your students are using them in another way. Explain to your students that using pinecones for decoration is a great way to reuse trees. The two basic types of trees are deciduous and coniferous. Deciduous trees have larger leaves, which they lose in the fall/winter. Coniferous trees have narrow needles, which drop continuously, not all at once. This is why coniferous trees are sometimes referred to as evergreens. Furthermore, coniferous trees have cones, which produce seeds. Examples of coniferous trees are pine, spruce, and fir trees. Maple, oak, and elm are examples of deciduous trees.

## Procedure

1. Ask students to describe the different types of trees that they can see outside. Prompt students by asking them to describe the various types of leaves. Point out the difference between trees with large leaves, and those with needles.
2. Ask students to describe what happens to some trees in the fall (their leaves fall off). Remind students that not all trees lose their leaves in the fall.
3. Explain that **deciduous** trees drop their leaves in the fall/winter, while **coniferous** trees drop needles continuously, but not all at once. Tell students that coniferous trees have cones, which produce seeds. In fact, conifer means “seed bearing.”
4. Ask students to explain the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources. Explain that trees are a renewable resource, which provide paper products.
5. Tell students that they will be using a pinecone to make their own holiday tree.
6. Pass out a large pinecone, cotton balls, glue, baggie, and glitter to each student.
7. Shake glitter into ziploc bag.
8. Dab glue on the tips of the pinecone. Place it in the baggie and shake.
9. Remove pinecone from baggie and glue several cotton balls to the base as snow.
10. Let dry and place around the room as a holiday decoration!

## References

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/Pineconetree.shtml>

<http://www.christmastrees.on.ca/ednet/lesson5.html>

