



Literacy



Art

# 3D EVERGREEN TREES

## Grade Level

3-5

## Length of Lesson

50-60 minutes

## Objective

After completing this activity, students will be more familiar with the basic life stages of an evergreen tree.

## Materials Needed

- Scissors
- Tape
- Green markers or green Paper
- Copies of the evergreen tree template
- Copies of the Evergreen Tree Poems

## Standards

### Common Core

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.10; RL.4.10

### Illinois Visual Arts

VA:Cr2.2.PK; Cr2.3.PK; Cr2.1.1; Re7.2.1

## Lesson Summary

This lesson is designed to help students learn about evergreen trees, their life cycle, and their purposes.

## Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Set Up: Print enough copies of the evergreen tree template so that each student has one. Printing the templates on green paper will reduce the overall time for this activity. Print the Evergreen Tree Poems and cut them apart.
2. Read "[Where Would I be in an Evergreen Tree?](#)" by Jennifer Blomgren to capture student interest.
3. Read through the AITC Tree Ag Mag to learn more about trees. Interactive online versions can be found on our website.
4. Complete the activity by following these procedures:
  - Discuss the life cycle of an evergreen tree with your students. Draw or show pictures of the stages as you explain them. Descriptions of the stages can be found on the Teacher Resources page.
  - Have students color their evergreen trees if not printed on green paper.
  - Cut out the tree, including the tab at one edge.
  - Use 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.
  - Give each student a copy of the evergreen tree poem and read through it together.
5. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity. Pair students together and have them share their evergreen trees with their partner, telling the story of the evergreen life cycle.

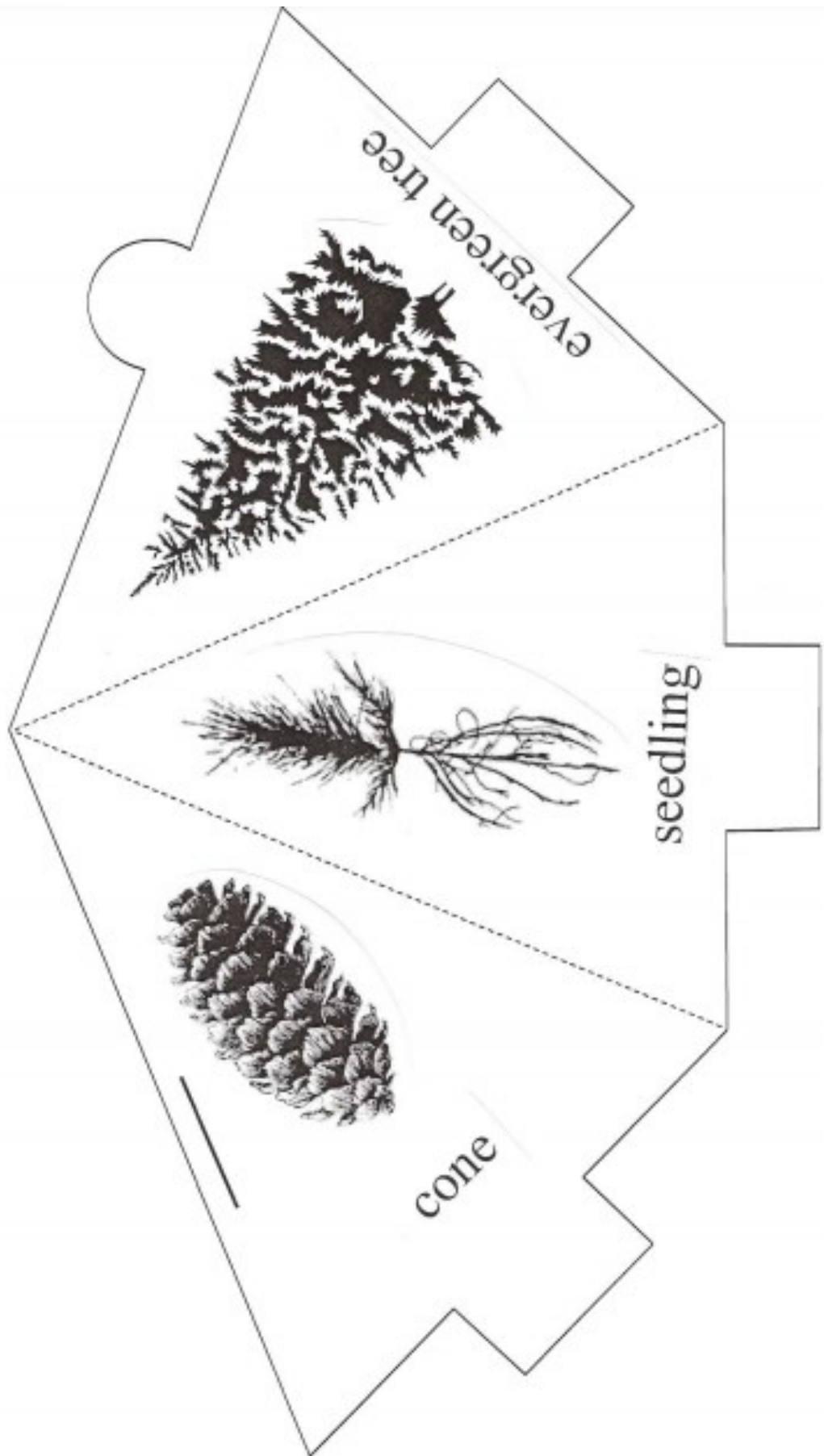
# TEACHER RESOURCES

## Evergreen Tree Life Cycle Stages:

- **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!

## Extension Ideas:

- Read "[Pick a Pine Tree](#)" by Patricia Toht and talk about family traditions. Dig deeper and look at other holiday traditions from around the world. How do these relate to agriculture?
- Look at a map and have students mark the geographic locations of where evergreen trees grow.
- Take a field trip to an evergreen tree farm and learn about what it takes to raise trees.
- Invite a tree farmer into your classroom to talk to the kids about tree farming. Have students prepare questions ahead of time.
- Learn about how beneficial conifers are to their environment. What bugs and animals rely on these trees?
- Compare and contrast coniferous trees and deciduous trees.
  - Read "[The Tree Book for Kids and Their Grown Ups](#)" by Gina Ingoglia to pair with these comparisons.
- Learn more about pinecones. How do the seeds get spread around?
- Research which coniferous trees are the oldest in the world! How have they been able to survive this long?
  - Giant sequoia, coastal redwood, and bristlecone pine old, in that order. Amazingly, all three grow in the United States! — *Source: NAITC*
  - Talk about how conifers have adapted to survive all seasons. Why is this beneficial? Have students pick an adaptation to write about.
  - Read "[Tall, Tall Tree](#)" by Anthony D. Fredericks to learn more about the coastal redwoods in California.
- Go to [agintheclassroom.org](http://agintheclassroom.org) to contact your County Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of our Ag Mags!



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### 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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