



Identifying Trees

Join Meghan Martin, Visitor Education Assistant, in an outdoor adventure as she describes how to identify five common trees of the Northeast US. You will also learn how to compare and contrast deciduous trees and evergreens. Special thanks to Cooper Martin, videographer.

Match the Tree to Its Bark



Eastern White
Pine



Shagbark
Hickory



American
Beech



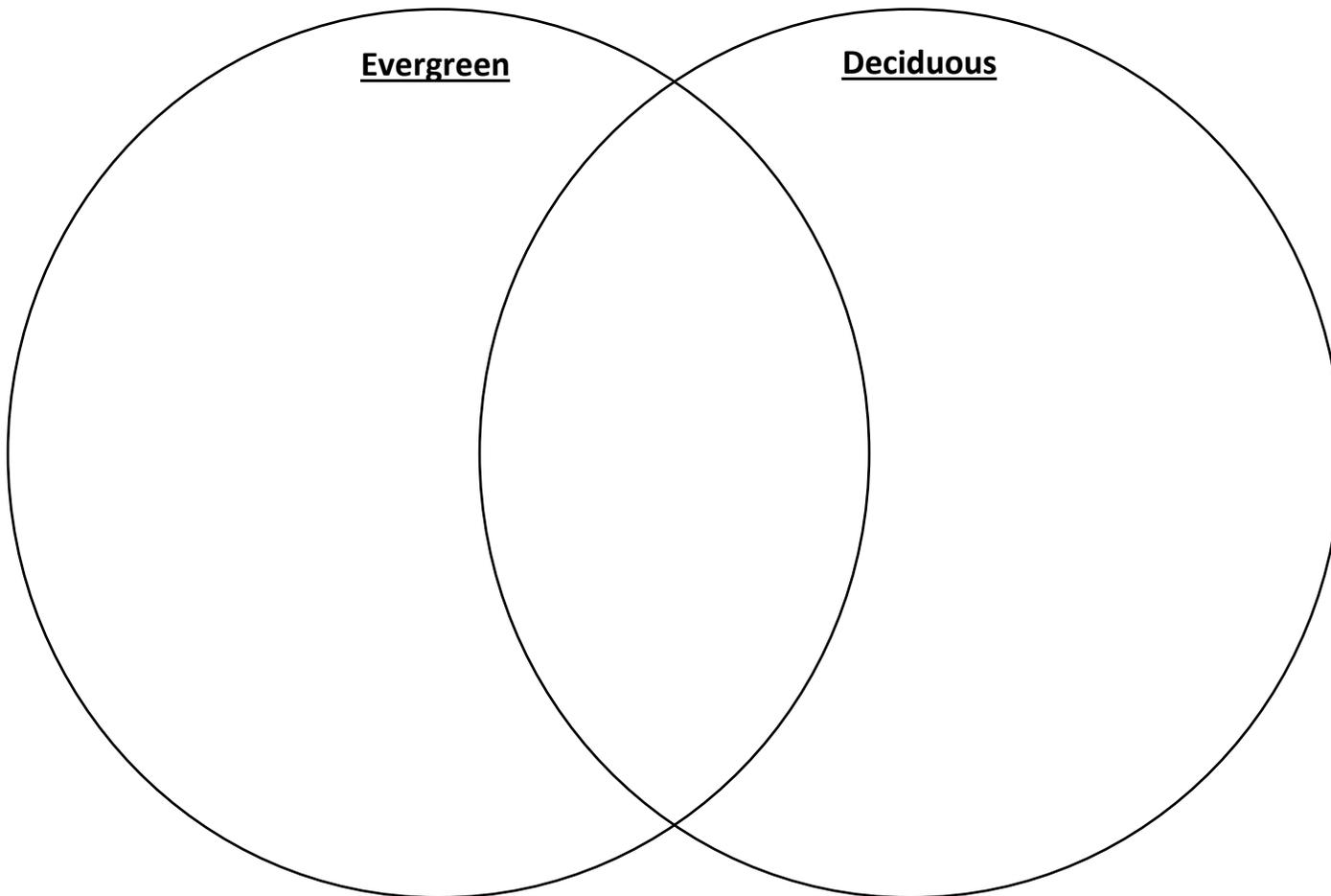
Eastern
Hemlock



American
Sycamore

Test Your Knowledge

Use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast an evergreen and deciduous tree.





Write 2 facts you learned about each tree from the video.

Write another 2 facts about each tree from the links provided below.

- [American Sycamore](#)
- [American Beech](#)
- [Shagbark Hickory](#)
- [Eastern Hemlock](#)
- [Eastern White Pine](#)

American Sycamore

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American Beech

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Shagbark Hickory

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Eastern Hemlock

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Eastern White Pine

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Answer Key

Evergreen and deciduous tree Venn Diagram

- Evergreen trees, like eastern white pines and eastern hemlocks, retain their foliage all year round
- Deciduous trees, like the American sycamore, American beech, and shagbark hickory, change colors and lose their leaves

American Sycamore

- Distinctive, mottled green, brown and white bark
- As the tree matures, the highest branches become all white

American Beech

- Smooth bark
- Known for keeping its leaves all winter until its new leaves want to come out
- There might also be some beech nuts lying around the base of the tree

Shagbark Hickory

- Easily identifiable due to their characteristic shaggy bark that appears to be peeling off the trunk

Eastern Hemlock

- Horizontal to drooping branches
- Brown, furrowed bark
- The needles are short and soft and lay flat on branches
- Small brown cones that hang from branches

Eastern White Pine

- Can reach 150 feet in height
- Its evergreen needles are in clusters of 5, soft, flexible and bluish-green in appearance
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Additional Resources

To learn more about trees, these are just a few of a great number of resources found online and at your favorite bookstore.

The Tree Book for Kids and Their Grown Ups by Gina Ingoglia

This book provides the basics about how trees grow, why leaves change colors, along with clear pictures of trees that make it a great choice for tree identification. Included are 33 trees that are common to North America. Another feature is that the leaf, flower and seeds are also illustrated in life-size scale.

We Love Trees by Rossiti Aishah Rashidi

Although written for young children, this book has a great deal of information about the different types of trees on an international level. It demonstrates that trees are homes to many animals and trees produce fruit that feeds people around the globe.

To listen to the book, [click here](#).

Our Very Own Tree: I Wonder Why by Lawrence F. Lowery (E-book)

In the book, two friends take interest in trees and they notice more about the world around them, such as the animals that live in the trees, as well as the seasons. This prompts them to conduct their own research where they acquire a love for the outdoors.

This is an e-book available on the National Science Teachers' Association (NSTA) website. You do not need to be a member to access the site.