

## ● White Oak (*Quercus alba*)



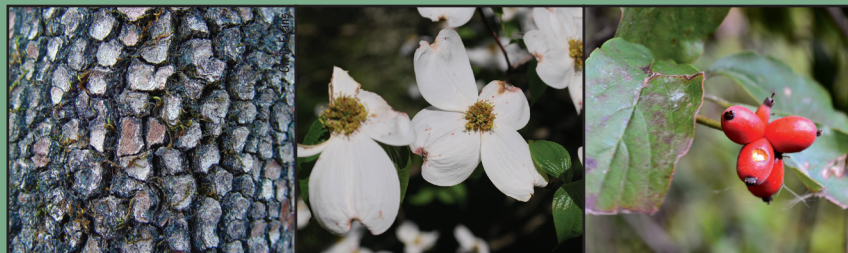
The leaves of the white oak have rounded lobes, and the bark is light gray and scaly on older trees. The acorns are elongated with a shallow cap, and have a sweet taste, which makes them a favorite food for deer, bear, turkeys, squirrels and other wildlife. Because of the water-tight quality of the wood, white oak was valued in olden times for shipbuilding, and is still used today to make barrels.

## ● Virginia Pine (*Pinus virginiana*)



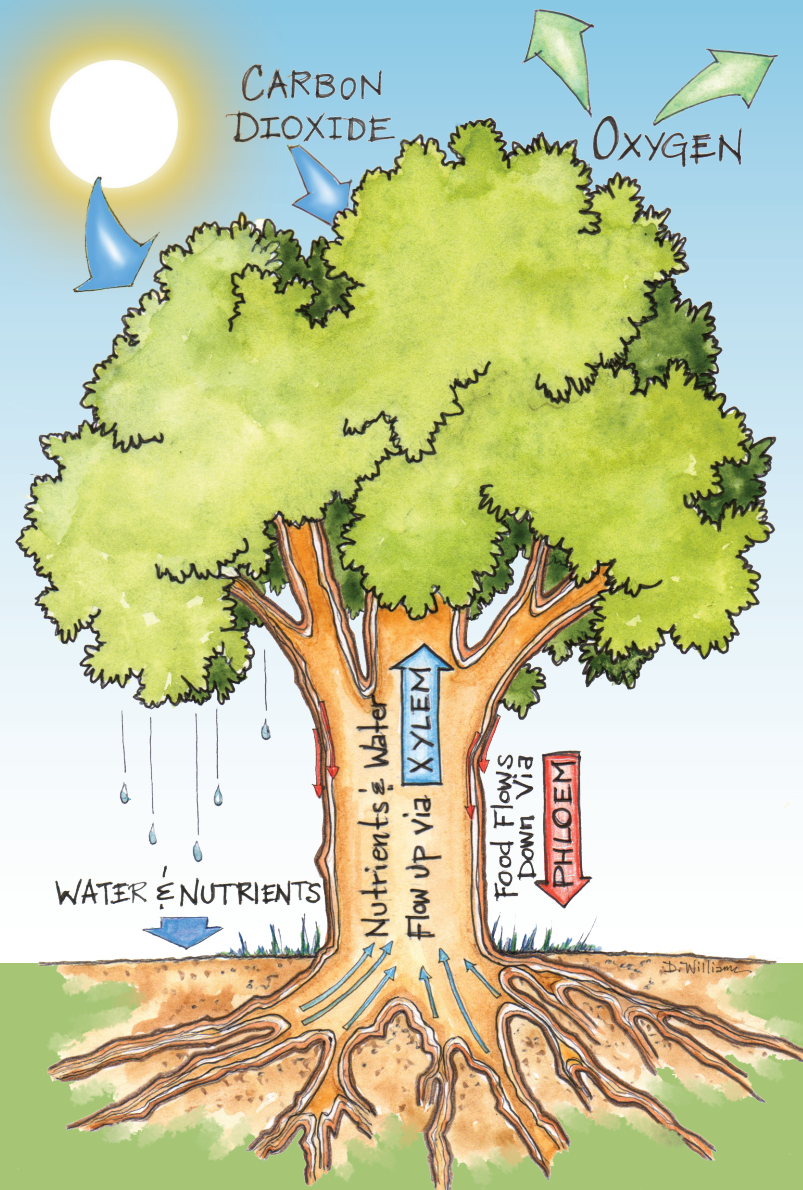
Virginia pine has light red-brown bark that breaks into small gray plates on full-grown trees. The needles are short (1.5 to 3 inches long) and twisted, and grow in **fascicles** (bundles) of two. The cones are slightly smaller than a chicken's egg and have a long spine on the end of each scale. Virginia pine is a **pioneer species**, which means it is often the first kind of tree to grow in a cleared area.

## ● Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)



The dogwood is a small, low-branched tree with checkered bark and oval leaves. It likes to grow beneath taller trees and is most recognizable in the early spring when its flowers appear. During the fall, the dogwood will turn bright red before it loses its leaves, and will bear small clusters of red berries. These berries are eaten by many animals from September to December.

# The Need to Know: How Trees Grow



Plants and trees have the ability to make their own food in a process known as **photosynthesis**. They do this by sucking water and nutrients from the soil up through their xylem and into their leaves. The water and nutrients are combined with carbon dioxide and sunlight to make a sugary food called **glucose**. This food then travels down through the phloem to the rest of the tree, so it can grow.

Illustrations by David Williams, Wingin' it Works

## ● American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)



This fast growing tree is easily recognizable by its mottled bark, which peels off in large irregular sheets to reveal shades of white, green, yellow, and brown underneath. The leaf can have three to five lobes, and its edges are wavy with teeth. The sycamore is also known as a buttonwood because of its round, bristly fruits. Parts of the tree were once used by Native Americans as medicine.

## ● Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)



Growing straight and tall with a light gray bark and a large broad leaf that looks like the tip has been bitten off, the tulip poplar is easy to find. Due to its large size and straight growth, this tree provides a lot of useful lumber. Tulip poplar is also a very important tree for honey production. In spring, honeybees collect nectar from the poplar's large and plentiful yellow-orange flowers.

## ● White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)



With an extremely straight trunk, needle leaves in **fascicles** (bundles) of five and long skinny cones, the eastern white pine is easy to identify. This tree has long been used as a source of food and medicine. The needles are high in vitamin C and are used to make tisane, an herbal tea. Deer and rabbits eat the foliage, and songbirds and mice graze on the seeds. White pine is also a valuable lumber tree.

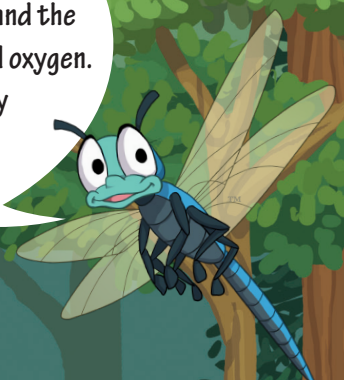




# The Need for Trees

Trees are very important to people, animals, insects, fungi, and even other trees. This is because trees provide so many things for people and the forest, including shelter, habitat, food and oxygen. This adventure will help you identify six of the most common trees found along this trail

For your safety, stay on the trail and be aware of your surroundings. Poison ivy climbs up the trunks of trees, too... so if you see a hairy vine, don't hug that tree!

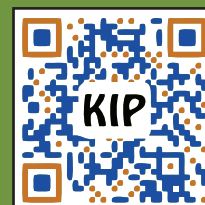


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All trees start out as seeds that will sprout into seedlings.  
A sapling is the next stage of a tree's life. Seedlings become saplings when they reach four feet tall.  
Saplings then officially become trees when their trunks are thicker than four inches in diameter.

## Tree Life Cycle

Seed

Seedling

Sapling

Tree

Snag

Fallen Log

When a tree dies, it sometimes becomes a snag, which is a dead tree that hasn't fallen.  
Fallen trees and snags slowly decompose and recycle nutrients back into the soil.  
Healthy soil will help new seeds grow into saplings, which then become full-grown trees to complete the cycle.

Can you find a...

Seed? \_\_\_ Seedling? \_\_\_ Sapling? \_\_\_ Tree? \_\_\_ Snag? \_\_\_ Fallen Log? \_\_\_