

● **Pignut Hickory** (*Carya glabra*)



Hickory trees have **compound leaves** (many leaflets on one stem). The pignut hickory gets its name because the halved nuts look like a pig’s nose. Due to the high concentration of fats, these small nuts are an extremely important food source for wild animals such as squirrels, bears and wild turkey. Because of its relatively high heating value, hickory wood makes excellent fuel wood for stoves.

● **Southern Magnolia** (*Magnolia grandiflora*)



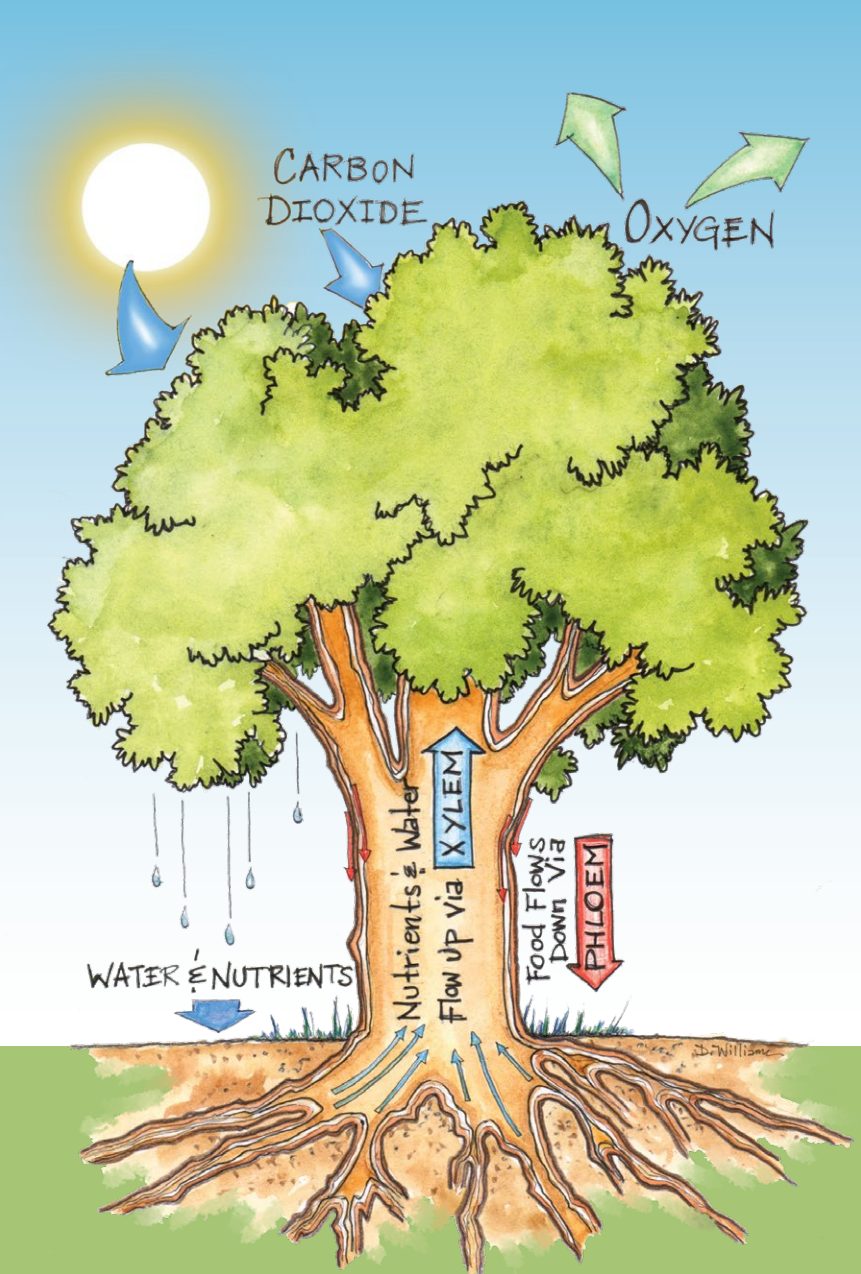
A popular ornamental and landscaping tree, the southern magnolia has smooth gray bark, large leathery evergreen leaves, and fragrant white flowers. The flowers can grow almost a foot in width. In the fall, southern magnolias produce cone-shaped clusters of bright red fruits which are eaten by squirrels, mice, and various songbirds.

● **Live Oak** (*Quercus virginiana*)



Live oaks are known for their spread of long, heavy, twisting branches. The bark is thick, dark brownish-gray, and deeply ridged. Leaves are thick and shiny with a long oval shape. Its acorns are long and dark brown with deep lighter colored caps. Native Americans used many parts of the tree for food, dyes, and medicine. It was important lumber for boat building, the dense wood giving the *USS Constitution* its nickname, “Old Ironsides.”

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

● **Sweetgum** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)



The sweetgum is a “pioneer plant”, meaning that sweetgums are among the first to begin growing in bare soil. Sweetgum seeds are carried by the tree’s unique, spikey fruit, called a “gumball”, and each fruit can contain up to 50 seeds. Other characteristics of the sweetgum include its star-shaped leaves, and gray, wrinkled bark. Many animals depend on the sweetgum for both food and shelter.

● **Sugarberry** (*Celtis laevigata*)



The sugarberry can be found growing in rocky or sandy soil and is used by many animals for food and shelter. It is known for its smooth, occasionally warty, light gray bark as well as its alternating, tapered, and slightly serrated leaves. The fruits are small and can be red or orange. Native Americans across the continent used the fruit for food, leaves for dye, and bark for medicine. Lumber from the sugarberry is also used for some wood products.

● **Loblolly Pine** (*Pinus taeda*)



Loblolly pines have clusters of needles that grow in groups of three. The bark is thick, scaly and grey with layers of brown underneath, and their pinecones are brown and prickly. The loblolly can grow very quickly in either wet or dry soil. Because of how fast it grows, people plant them in huge numbers to later be used for lumber and paper. People also plant them to create shade and to stop erosion.



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.

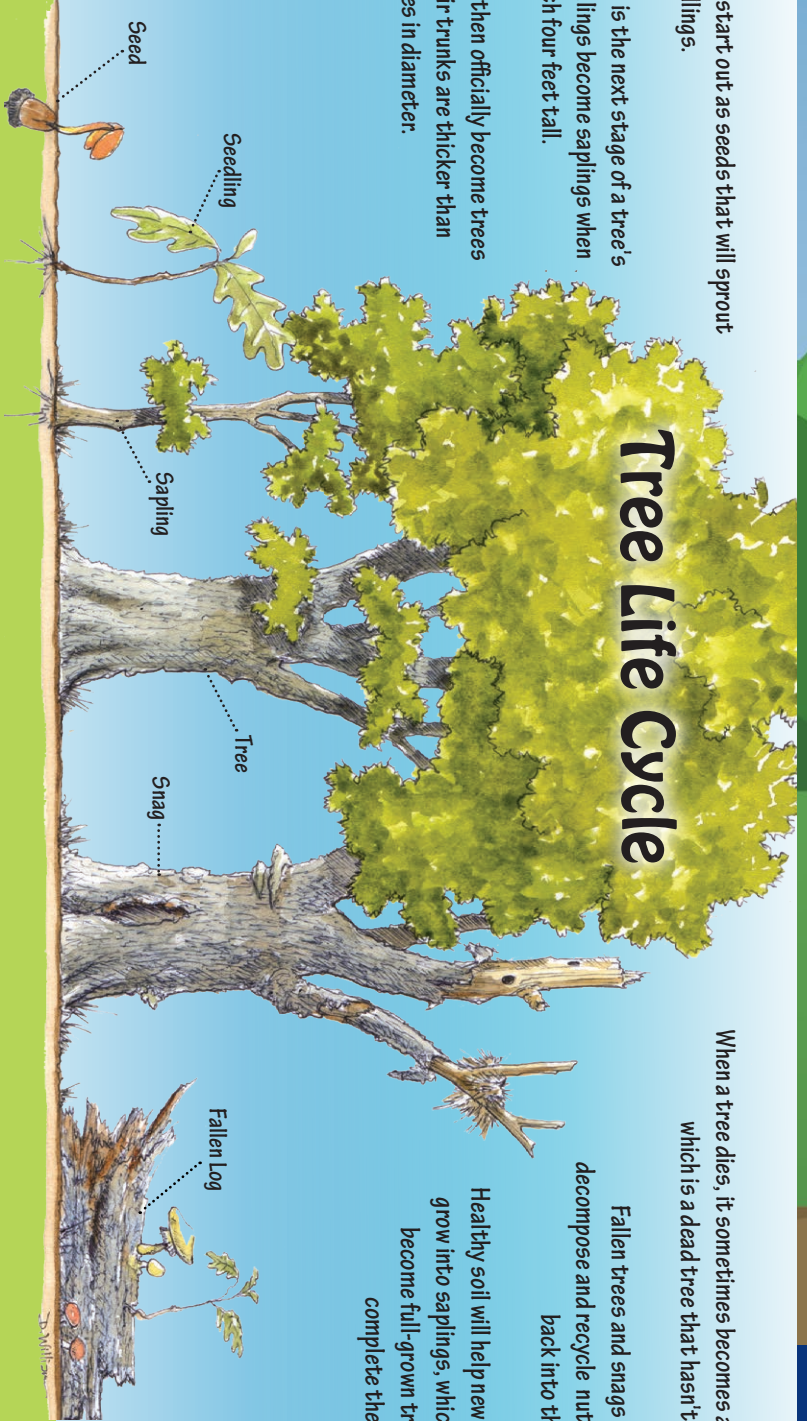
Saplings then officially become trees when their trunks are thicker than four inches in diameter.

Tree Life Cycle

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? ___