Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda



Loblolly pines are prized lumber trees in the southeastern United States. Unlike most pines, loblolly pines can handle living in wet conditions. The bark is thick, brownish-gray and scaly. The needles are six to nine inches long in fascicles (bundles) of three. The cones are prickly and about the size of an orange. Loblolly pine forests provide habitat for deer, turkey and many other wild animals.

River Birch





River Birch got its name because it likes to grow near water. The gray-brown bark exfoliates (peels) in paper-like strips. The leaves are green on top and more white on the bottom, with serrated edges. White-tailed deer eat the leaves and twigs, and birds and rodents eat the seeds. Birch sap can be boiled to make birch syrup, which is sweeter than maple syrup, but harder to produce in large quantities.



Platanus occidentalis

Betula nigra



The sycamore is a large, fast growing tree that is easily recognized by its mottled bark, which peels off in large irregular sheets to reveal shades of white, green, yellow, and brown underneath. The sycamore is also known as the buttonwood tree because of its round, fuzzy fruits (buttonballs). Native Americans used sycamore trees to make a variety of medicines.



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

Red Maple



Able to grow in almost any soil condition, the red maple is one of the most abundant and widespread trees in eastern North America. With red twigs, buds, flowers, and seeds, it's easy to see how the red maple got its name. Red maple wood is used to make parts of guitars, banjos, drums, and other musical instruments because of its flexibility, sturdiness and beautiful coloration.

Bald Cypress

Taxodium distichum



Bald cypress trees have stringy, reddish bark with ridges in a criss-cross pattern. Many have a wide trunk base for stability during floods. They are called "bald" cypress because unlike other conifers (cone-bearing trees), they shed their leaves each winter. Unique to cypress trees, "knees" are roots that have grown upward above the ground and may help the trees to breathe and anchor them in soft soil.

🗆 Water Tupelo





Water tupelo trees grow in swamps and are easy to identify by their wide, swollen trunk bases and gray bark with blocky ridges. The leaves are 4 to 8 inches long and pointed on the end. Honeybees make honey from the small, greenish-white flowers that bloom in the spring. The purple, teardrop-shaped fruits are eaten by wood ducks and a wide variety of songbirds and other animals.



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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 TRACK Trail Adventure will help you identify six of the most common trees found along this trail.

> Use this brochure to identify and learn about trees. 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!