Name: _____ Date: _____

Pine Trees Stay Green

Circle group

Many trees lose their leaves in the fall. An oak tree does. Its leaves turn brown and fall down. In winter, the oak is bare.

A pine tree is not the same. It has thin needles, not flat leaves. The needles stay on all year. A pine stays green in winter.

A pine makes cones. Seeds hide in the cones. An oak makes acorns. Both trees give shade and homes for birds.

Questions

1. What happens to an oak's leaves in the fall?

_____

_____

2. What does a pine have, not flat leaves?

_____

_____

3. Where do pine seeds hide?

_____

_____

4. What does an oak make?

_____

_____

5. Why is a pine green in winter?

_____

_____

Words to know

needle: a thin, sharp leaf on a pine tree
cone: the hard part of a pine tree that holds seeds
acorn: the nut that grows on an oak tree
bare: with nothing on it

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Pine Trees Stay Green

Triangle group

Many trees lose their leaves in the fall. An oak tree is one of them. Its leaves turn brown and drop to the ground. In winter, the oak looks bare.

A pine tree is different. It does not have flat leaves. It has thin, sharp needles. The needles stay on the tree all year, so a pine stays green in winter.

A pine tree also makes cones. Seeds hide inside the cones. An oak makes acorns instead. Both trees give shade and a home for birds.

Questions

1. What happens to an oak tree's leaves in the fall?

_____

_____

2. What does a pine tree have instead of flat leaves?

_____

_____

3. Where do the seeds of a pine tree hide?

_____

_____

4. What does an oak make instead of cones?

_____

_____

5. Why does a pine tree stay green in winter?

_____

_____

Words to know

needle: a thin, sharp leaf on a pine tree
cone: the hard part of a pine tree that holds seeds
acorn: the nut that grows on an oak tree
bare: with nothing on it

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Pine Trees Stay Green

Square group

Many kinds of trees lose their leaves when autumn comes. An oak tree is one of them. Its leaves turn brown and drift down to the ground, and in winter the oak looks bare.

A pine tree is quite different. Instead of flat leaves, it has thin, sharp needles. The needles stay on the branches all year long, which is why a pine tree stays green even in the middle of winter.

A pine tree also grows cones, and the seeds hide safely inside them. An oak tree makes acorns instead. Both kinds of trees give shade and make a good home for birds.

Questions

1. What happens to an oak tree's leaves when autumn comes?

_____

_____

2. What does a pine tree have instead of flat leaves?

_____

_____

3. Where are the seeds of a pine tree kept safe?

_____

_____

4. What does an oak tree make instead of cones?

_____

_____

5. Why does a pine tree stay green in the middle of winter?

_____

_____

Words to know

needle: a thin, sharp leaf on a pine tree

cone: the hard part of a pine tree that holds seeds

acorn: the nut that grows on an oak tree

bare: with nothing on it

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Pine Trees Stay Green

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Pine Trees Stay Green

Easier · 72 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.5

1. They turn brown and fall down.
2. Thin needles.
3. In the cones.
4. Acorns.
5. Its needles stay on all year.

Triangle: Pine Trees Stay Green

This passage · 86 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.5

1. They turn brown and drop to the ground.
2. Thin, sharp needles.
3. Inside the cones.
4. Acorns.
5. Its needles stay on the tree all year.

Square: Pine Trees Stay Green

Harder · 104 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. They turn brown and drift down to the ground.
2. Thin, sharp needles.
3. Inside the cones.
4. Acorns.
5. Its needles stay on the branches all year long.