



Raincoast Field School @ home: “Trees and Forests” Raincoast Challenge (K-3)

After viewing our online lesson and learning about the 4 most dominate tree species found here on Canada’s West coast, try out these fun activities to further improve your learning!

Challenge #1: Forest Exploration

With an adult, head out into the forest ecosystem in search of the 4 tree species; be sure to get a good look at the color, textures, lengths and shapes of the needles, cones, and bark. Try to search on the forest floor for fallen branches and cones to collect and bring back home with you. Remember you are looking for the Spiky Sitka **Spruce**, The Happy **Hemlock**, the Stringy **Cedar** and the Porcupine **Pine**

Challenge #2: Organization

Now that you have gathered a few samples of each tree species it is time to sort them out! Try to organize the cones and needles of each tree into its correct category. Then mix them up once again and time yourself as you sort them out. Did you correctly sort all 4 species parts?

Challenge #3: Tree Art

To better your understanding and identification skills I highly recommend making an art project out of each tree type. Attached are a few images and a materials list for just one of many art piece ideas you could do. Really try to focus on looking at the differences between each species type. Try asking questions such as: Are the needles waxy? Are the needles all the same shape? Which tree type looks the most green? Most blue? Is the underside of the needles the same colour? Who has the largest cones? Are any of the needles in pairs?

Materials List:

- Brown and green paint
- Cardboard toilet paper roll
- 4 rectangular paper cards
- One strip of corrugated cardboard paper

Using the list of materials above, help your little learners create each tree. Cut the toilet paper roll into branch sized pieces. Dip each strip into the brown paint and create a branch pattern on your paper cards. Again using the same toilet paper roll cut out the signature shapes of each tree species. We have provided some images and descriptions to help you along the way! Have fun and please provide us with any feedback or attach some images of your little’s finished art work.



Be sure to use only one strip of cardboard to demonstrate how the Sitka Spruce tree has the same length of needles twirling around the branch, you could even cut the tip into a sharp point to show just how spiky they are.



The Pine needles will always be bunched in a pair of two. Cut a strip of cardboard and fold it in half to demonstrate this. Have your little ones dip the edge of the strip in the green paint and add it to the branches.



Hemlock needles come in all shapes and sizes, some are short, others are long, and they seem to be all over the place, not much organization here. Cut two different length strips to dip in the green paint and add to the branches.



Remember the cedar needles are very textured, they almost look like a small creates scales, using the corrugated piece of cardboard cutout a strip for your student to use as this tree's needles.

Share your experience and results with us! #raincoastfieldschool

