

Winter Wildlife Series:

Week Three: *Plants*

Vocabulary:

Stem: The main body of a plant that rises above the ground.

Roots: The part of a plant that is attached to the ground and brings nutrients up from the soil.

Deciduous: A tree that loses its leaves in the winter.

Conifer: A tree that makes cones and needles.

What does a seed need to grow?

Materials:

Sunflower seeds or bean seeds, soil, 2 small cups, water

Directions:

1. Fill both cups with soil and push your seeds down about half an inch into the soil, one seed per cup. We recommend sunflowers or beans because their sprouts are larger.
2. Water your seed.
3. Put one seed in a warm sunny place like the window, and one in a cool dark place like a closet or cabinet.
4. Check back every day to see your seed's progress, and don't forget to water them. Both seeds will sprout, but the seed growing in the cool dark place will still believe it is underground once it has pushed its way out of the soil, so it will not grow leaves. The seed in the warm and sunny spot will grow leaves. This shows that if a seed does not have sunshine and warmth it cannot survive.

Seasonal Tree Art (PreK-2):

Materials:

Colored pencils, pom poms, cotton balls, scissors, glue, colored pencils (*optional*), white or colored paper (*optional*)

Directions:

1. Decorate one tree as a winter tree and one tree as a spring/summer tree. You can use pom poms or cotton balls for leaves and snow. Use colored pencils if you don't have pom poms, or cut out snow or leaf shapes from paper.
2. Decorate your trees with seasonal animals, flowers, or fruit to add pops of color.

Conifer vs. Deciduous Venn Diagram (3-5)

Materials:

Scissors, glue

Directions:

1. Cut out each tree characteristic from the bottom box and glue them into the correct section of the venn diagram.

Get Outside!

Can you find both kinds of trees? Look for a conifer and a deciduous tree. How did you tell the difference? Brush away some snow and see if you can still find some grass growing on the ground. Grass is super hearty and one of the most important winter plants for active animals to eat!