

WINTER TREES

Winter is a great time to take a closer look at trees. Many of them have lost their leaves, so you have to use other ways to figure out their species—but luckily trees will give you plenty of clues!

Head outside to find a tree, and ask these questions to learn more about it.

IS IT DECIDUOUS OR EVERGREEN?



Deciduous trees like this **sugar maple** lose their leaves in the fall and grow new ones in the winter.



Evergreen trees, on the other hand, keep their leaves year-round. Many of them, such as this **white pine**, have thin, needle-like leaves.

HOW DO ITS BRANCHES GROW? TREE BRANCHES GROW IN THREE PATTERNS.

Opposite-branching trees have pairs of branches that stick out on opposite sides of a larger branch or trunk.
Examples: maples, ashes, horse chestnuts



Alternate-branching trees have branches that stick out on alternating sides.
Examples: oaks, birches



Whorled trees have branches that stick out in rings all around the trunk.
Examples: pines, spruces, firs



WHAT DOES ITS BARK LOOK LIKE?

Bark comes in all sorts of textures and patterns. There are guidebooks to help you find out a tree's species by looking at the bark. Here are two examples of bark.



This **gray birch** has smooth, pale bark.

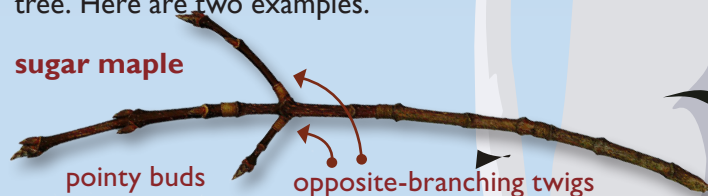
This **white pine** has bumpy bark that is broken up into rectangular chunks.



WHAT DO ITS TWIGS AND BUDS LOOK LIKE?

If there are no leaves on the tree, take a look at the twigs and buds—they are unique for each kind of tree. Here are two examples.

sugar maple



black oak

