**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sugar maple</td>
<td>Leaves fall in the fall and grow new ones in the winter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Evergreen trees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White pine</td>
<td>Leaves stay year-round.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How Do Its Branches Grow?**

**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.

**Sugar maple**

- Gray birch has smooth, pale bark.

**Black oak**

- 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**

- Pointy buds.

**Black oak**

- Fuzzy buds.
- Clusters of buds at the tip.

**Ready, Set, Go Outside!**

massaudubon.org/go