



CONIFER EXPLORATION



Head to Alpine Lane to explore our conifer collection!

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"Taxonomy" is how scientists classify plants and animals.

Below, we use taxonomy to compare humans to a well-known pine tree species.

Can you pronounce the scientific terms? Use the parenthesis to sound it out!

TORREY PINE

Kingdom: Plantae (*plant-ey*)

Division: Pinophyta
(*pine-oh-fie-tuh*)

Order: Pinales (*peen-all-ess*)

Family: Pinaceae
(*pin-ey-see-ey*)

Genus: Pinus
(*Pine-us*)

Species: Pinus torreyana
(*pine-us tohr-ey-awe-nah*)



HUMAN (YOU!)

Kingdom: Animalia (*ani-mall-ee-uh*)

Phylum: Chordata (*cord-ott-ah*)

Order: Primates (*prime-ates*)

Family: Hominidae
(*homm-in-id-ey*)

Genus: Homo (*ho-mo*)

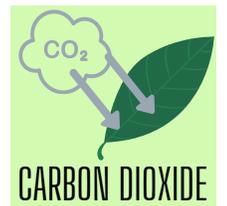
Species: Homo Sapiens
(*ho-mo say-pee-ens*)



Most conifers (plants with needle-like leaves and cones with seeds) are evergreens, meaning that their leaves remain green throughout the year. Plants have green leaves because they help them with...

PHOTOSYNTHESIS!

Photosynthesis is how plants stay alive. They use water and sunlight to make their own food. They also convert carbon dioxide to oxygen, and that's what we breathe to stay alive! Can you rearrange the images below to create the process of photosynthesis? Turn this page upside down for the answer key.



1. Sunlight, 2. Water, 3. Plant Food, 4. Carbon Dioxide, 5. Oxygen

CONIFER EXPLORATION

Find a spot on Alpine Lane where you can no longer hear the sounds of the street or see other people. Close your eyes and notice what you hear and smell.

Can you hear the birds singing or the wind blowing through the trees?



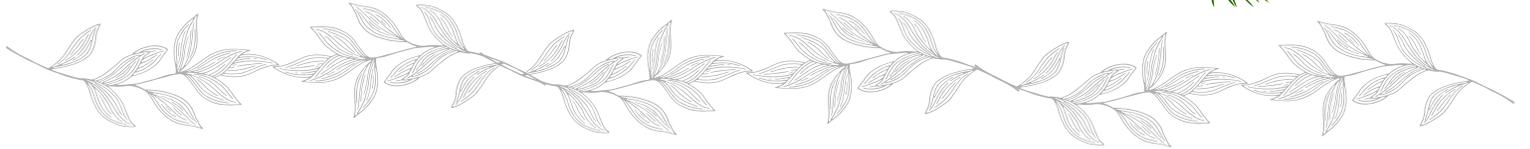
Can you smell the scent of pine or the soil?

Open your eyes. How many different shades of green do you see?



Can you feel mist falling on your nose?

What do the pine needles feel like (be careful, some are sharp!)?
Why do you think it would help a plant to have sharp leaves?



DID YOU KNOW?

The tallest tree in the world is a conifer! A coastal redwood named Hyperion is the largest known tree in the world, and it is located in the Redwood National Park, CA.



Hyperion is between 700 and 800 years old. The tree stands 379.1 feet tall! That's taller than the Statue of Liberty in New York and Big Ben in London!

How tall are you? How many of you do you think it would take to reach the height of the tallest tree on Earth?

Conifer forests make up large pieces of land all over the Northern Hemisphere, but they can still use a lot of help to stay alive and healthy. Make sure you take the time to cherish and respect California's beautiful spaces when visiting.