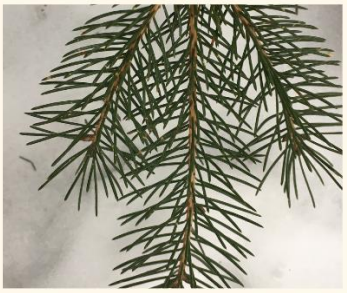


Tu B'Shevat Winter Tree Walk

Tu B'Shevat Winter Tree Walk

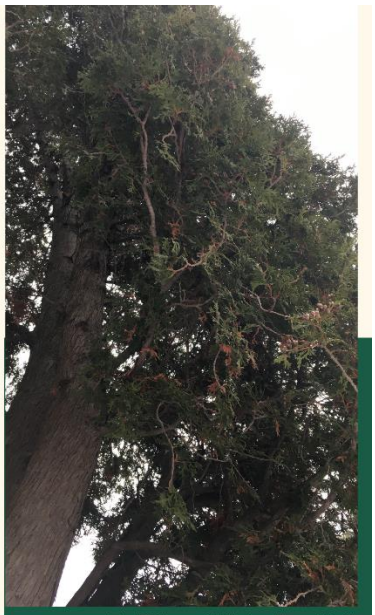
Master of the universe
Grant me the ability to be alone.
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day
Among the trees and the grass, among all
growing things
And there may I be alone to enter into prayer.
There I may express all that is in my heart,
Talking to you, the one to whom I belong.

- Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav

Developed by Anne Read

Sources consulted: Canadian Wildlife Federation www.cwf-fcf.org
Native Trees of Canada, Department of National Resources/Forestry Branch (1956)
The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate, Peter Wohlleben (2016)

Tu B'Shevat Winter Tree Walk



Tu B'Shevat Winter Tree Walk

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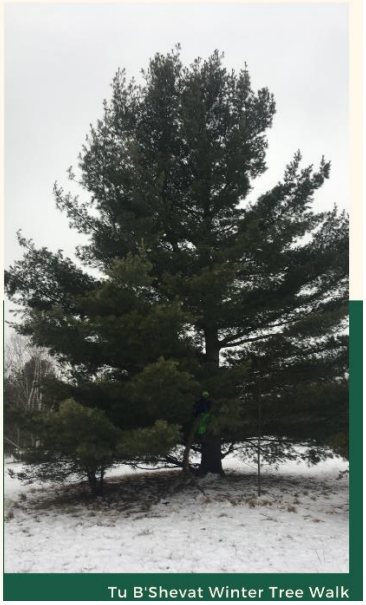

Tu B'Shevat Winter Tree Walk

Today we are going outside to learn about trees.
Just like humans, trees come in all shapes and sizes.

The more we spend time with trees, the easier it is to tell them apart, to identify them, and know who they are. In fact, our Rabbis say that a person is like a tree (Devarim/Deuteronomy 20:19).

Did you know that trees communicate with each other?

Trees send out signals to each other, through their root systems and different scents. They tell other trees if there will be no rain for a long time, or if a disease is coming, or if insects are attacking their bark. When the other trees receive these signals, they actually change their behavior!

To find out more, let's get started!

Take turns reading the cards, or looking for the trees in the pictures. See how many trees you can identify!

SPRUCE

Spruce trees are evergreens (or conifers).

Canada is home to 5 native types of spruce: White, Black, Red, Engelmann, and Sitka.

How to identify a spruce tree:
1. it has needles instead of leaves
2. the needles grow in a circle around the twig
3. the bark is thin and scaly
4. the trunks grow straight up to the sky

I wonder:
How much of the land in Canada is forest?
Answer: 40%! That means we have 9% of all the world's forests! Let's protect it!

CEDAR

Cedar trees are evergreens (conifers)
Canada is home to 2 native types of Cedar: White and Red

How to identify a cedar tree:
1. the bark grows up the trunk in long strips
2. the needles grow flat on a flat twig
3. the cones are tiny, the size of a fingernail
4. the needles smell strong, rub them between your fingers and smell

I wonder:
Which are older evergreens (conifers) or deciduous trees (leaf trees)?

Answer: Evergreens! Scientists understand evergreen trees have been on planet earth for 170 million years! That's 70 million years longer than deciduous trees!

SUMAC

Sumac are deciduous tree (they loose their leaves in winter).

While Canada is home to different types of sumacs, the Staghorn Sumac is the only native sumac tree in Canada.

How to identify a sumac tree:
1. red hairy berry fruit shaped like a cone
2. the trunks grow up thin and crooked
3. the twigs have a hairy bark in winter
4. the trees are small and grow in open fields

I wonder: Can trees protect themselves?
Answer: Not from humans, but trees do protect themselves from insects and animals with poisonous tannins they send out through their leaves or bark.

PINE

Pine trees are evergreens (or conifers).

Canada is home to 9 native types of pines: White, Whitebark, Limber, Red, Jack, Pitch, Ponderosa, Shore, and Lodgepole pine.

How to identify a pine tree:
1. it has long thin needles instead of leaves
2. the needles grow in groups of 2, 3 or 5
3. the bark of a Red pine actually looks red

I wonder:
What is worse for trees: Cars? Plastic? or Dogs?

Answer: Dogs! Actually, dog pee can burn tree bark and even damage roots!

BIRCH

Birch trees are deciduous (loose their leaves in winter).

Canada is home to 7 types of birch trees: White, Yellow , Wire, Sweet, Blueleaf, Water, and Kenai birch.

How to identify a birch tree:
1. young birch trees have papery bark that can be stripped off the trunk (this is their protective skin, so leave it be)
2. the trunks grow close together in clumps
3. the trunks grow straight up to the sky

I wonder: How much carbon dioxide (pollution in our air) does one tree absorb? 12 pounds, 26 pounds, or 48 pounds?
Answer:
A mature tree can absorb 48 pounds of carbon dioxide in it's branches, roots, and trunk every year. So if you drove a car for 41,000 km, one tree could absorb all that pollution!