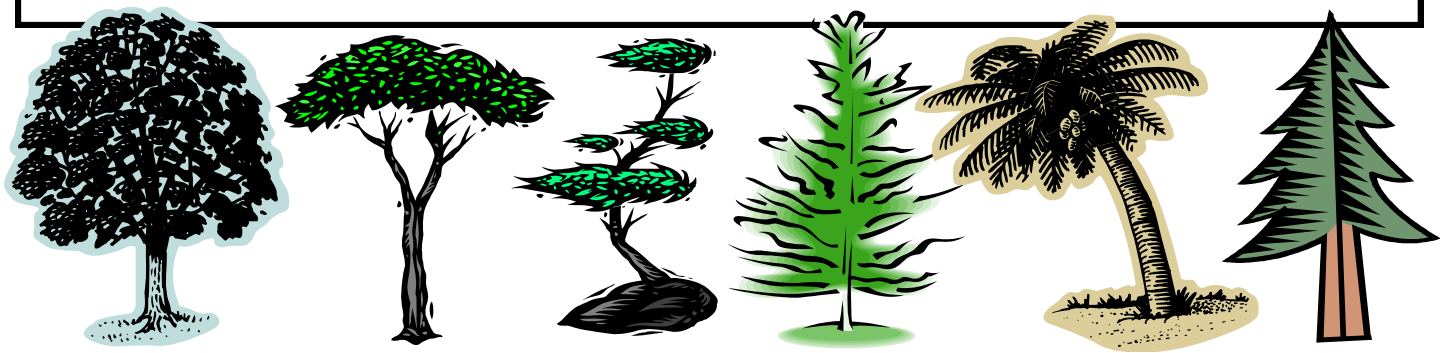
Time for the Trees, Please

Biosphere Reserve

One of the most visible components in the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve's landscape is trees! The type of forest in the GBBR is a **Mixed Forest**. This means there are coniferous and deciduous trees.

Which Tree Doesn't Belong in the GBBR?



Trees do a lot for us…

Take a deep breath… The oxygen you inhaled was created by a tree. Trees use carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. People breath in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Lets thank the trees for helping us breath a little easier. People and other animals use trees everyday. Can you think of examples for each of the following uses:

Food **Medicine** **Shelter** **Warmth** **Tools**

Coniferous Trees: The leaves are needles which stay on the tree through winter. The needles are gradually shed and replaced by new needles. The seeds are found in the cones conifers produce. You can remember the word conifer because it starts the same way as cone. Examples in the GBBR are pine, cedar, spruce, hemlock and fir.

Deciduous Trees: The leaves are flat and come in many different shapes. They are shed all at once in autumn and are replaced with new leaves in spring. There is a wide variety among types of seeds such as acorns or maple keys. Examples in the GBBR are maple, ash, elm, beech and birch. Keep an eye out for tamaracks, they have needles but shed them each fall. They are deciduous conifers!

Make a Leaf-Rubbing Collection! 1 point

Leaf rubbings are a great way to make a leaf collection without storing real leaves. Try to find a leaf on the ground. Put it under a piece of paper and using the edge of your pencil lightly rub the lead over the leaf to make an impression. Try to include in your leaf rubbing collection a leaf that is:

- As big as your hand
- As small as your thumbnail
- Has jagged edges
- Smooth edges
- Not green
- Long and narrow
- Partially eaten by insects
- From a coniferous tree

Time to Meet a Tree

You will need a partner, a blindfold and a forested area to play this game.

1. Start by having one partner wear the blindfold.
2. The un-blindfolded partner will then carefully guide them to a nearby tree.
3. When you both reach the tree, the blindfolded person will use their senses to make mental notes about what the tree looks like. No peeking!
3. Next their partner will carefully lead them back to the starting point.
4. When you are both back in the starting point, take off the blindfold and see if you can find the tree!

1 point if you can find the tree your partner took you too!

Measure a Tree's Height! 1 point

Find a straight stick that is the same length as your arm from wrist to shoulder. Hold it upright at the very bottom facing the tree. Carefully walk backwards until it looks like the tree and the stick are the same length. Now draw a line in the soil and measure from that line to the tree. That distance is the same height of the tree, calculated by *triangulation*.

Leaves make food for the tree, turning sunlight into energy!

THE OUTER BARK is a tree's first line of defense from insects, disease and other hazards.

ROOTS intake water, oxygen and nutrients from the soil and provide structural support.