

**Student Sheet**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Title: Tree Key**

**Introduction:** A key is necessary to find the names of plants and animals. Keys are written with different levels of scientific vocabulary various ways, depending on the age and background of the reader. If you find yourself with a key that has too many words you do not recognize, find a new key. The key you will use in this activity should contain mostly words you know. A couple of hints:



needles in bundles of two



single needles



scales on a cone



scales on a leaf

In this activity, you will use pictures of trees and real tree branches. See how well you can use the key to identify them.

**Procedure:**

1. Use the pictures your teacher provides to identify each tree by name.
2. Write the characteristics of each tree and steps you follow to get to the trees name in your data.
3. Use the real trees and find their names after you have practiced with the pictures.

**Data:**

Tree number	Characteristics	Key numbers	Name
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

**Real Trees:**

Tree	Characteristics	Key numbers	Name
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number			
1			
2			
3			
4			

**Analysis:**

1. How many names did you get correct?
  
2. Pick a vocabulary word off the key that you did not know. What is it and what do you think it means (you can draw it if that is easier)?
  
3. What characteristics seem best to identify coniferous trees?
  
4. Why is it important to be able to name trees? Describe at least two reasons.

Conclusion: