



Printable Teacher Guide Grades 3-5

Standards:

The elementary materials correlate with the following McRel Content Standards:

Science:

- Understands how species depend on one another and on the environment for survival

Geography:

- Understands the characteristics of ecosystems on Earth's surface
- Understands how human actions modify the physical environment
- Understands the changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources
- Understands global development and environmental issues

General Information:

The grade levels identified for this section are approximate. Third grade students will need parent/teacher support in working through the materials. Fifth graders should be able to work fairly independently.

As with most curricular materials, there are many ways to individualize and adapt to your students, your child, your group, your area, your interests, your time, your family... the list goes on!

For more hands-on and field trip options or to find locate a classroom speaker, contact an NCTA member near you. An online search for growers in your area can be found at <http://www.realchristmastrees.org/search.html> or <http://www.realchristmastrees.org/teachers.html>.

The site is organized by grade level and lesson. Each lesson contains informational/instructional text and vocabulary (*Words to Learn*). In addition, students may find one or more of the following elements:

- Link Up! – Internet links for digging deeper and learning more about the topic
- Think Tank – Journal pages, short tasks, and activities designed for guided practice
- Fast Facts! – interesting facts about REAL TREES and/or the topic at hand
- Quick Crafts – environmentally friendly crafts

At these grade levels, suggested book titles for further reading are included in their own section.

Words to Know on the Menu Page:

- conifer: A conifer is a needle-leaved or scale-leaved tree or shrub that produces cones. Conifers are a type of plant called a gymnosperm.
- species: a kind, variety, or type of organism
- terminal buds: the undeveloped shoot growing at the end of a stem, branch, or stalk

Fast Facts on the Menu Page:

- Trees grow from the top. Each spring new growth (height) is added from terminal buds that are located in the topmost parts of the tree.



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Quick Crafts on the Menu Page:

- Popcorn Wreaths
Sew popcorn, grapes, and pretzels on a pipe cleaner. Twist the ends to form a circle and hang on the tree.

Thanks to Linda Franz for this cool idea!