



Get Growing!

When students finish working through this section:

1. They will be able to describe the life cycle of a farm raised REAL TREE.
2. They will have completed a graphic organizer about the life cycle of a REAL TREE.
3. They will have compared the REAL TREE life cycle with the cycle of school years.

Coniferous trees, just like all other living things, grow in a cycle. Tree farms use that cycle to plan a successful harvest – from seed to tree to seed again. *Get Growing!* is about this life cycle. If you have previously studied life cycles, this is a good place to review and compare. If your students are unfamiliar with the idea of life cycles, this is a good place to open the door!

Possible Discussion Points/Activities:

- Have students dramatize the life cycle of a tree. Set the parameters and brainstorm ahead of time!
- Use picture cards to illustrate the life cycle of a conifer. Ask students to put them "in order" and write a short summary of the cycle itself.
- Ask students to print and complete the *Think Tank* assignment. This can be done as a whole class, in small groups, or as an individual activity. Discuss and share!
 - Ask students to complete the graphic organizer showing what they know about the life cycle of a conifer. (Page 1)
 - Have students compare the life cycle of a tree with their own life cycle. (Page 2)

Words to Know in this Section:

- fertilize: to add something to the soil to make it more fertile (better for growing plants)
- nutrients: a substance necessary for a plant or animal to grow
- pollen: the part of a plant that allows for fertilization (the ability to create a seed)
- pollination: when pollen from the male cone comes in contact with the ovule of a female cone
- pruning: cutting off undesired twigs, branches, or roots
- seedlings: a plant or tree grown from a seed; any young plant
- scales: small, thin, usually dry, parts of a plant
- shear: to cut or remove by cutting
- ovules: the structure of a seed plant that develops into a seed after fertilization; a small egg
- seed coat: the outer protective covering of a seed
- life cycle: the progression through a series of different stages of development

Fast Facts in this Section:

- One acre of Real Trees on a farm makes enough oxygen for 18 people.