

**Topics:** 3D Art, Natural Resources, Plant Traits

**Materials List**

- ✓ Green file folder, cardstock, or construction paper
- ✓ Stapler
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Optional: Stickers, beads, chenille stems, bits of colored paper
- ✓ Optional: hole punch

**Learning Standards**

CA Visual & Performing Arts – Media Arts:

[PK-7.MA:Cr.1](#)

[PK-7.MA:Cr.2](#)

NGSS: Inheritance and Variation of Traits, Natural Resources

[K-ESS3-1](#)

[3-LS3-2](#)

# 3D Tree

Simple, Paper Evergreen Trees for a Tabletop Winter Wonderland



A bit of cutting and stapling will produce wonderful, little trees that stand up on their own. Decorate your tree for a great winter holiday project or create several trees of various sizes to make a tabletop scene.

**Assembly**

1. Hand cut or die-cut 2 or 3 Evergreen trees (conifers) using green file folders or construction paper, or cardstock.
2. Score and crease each tree vertically along the middle of the tree.
3. Cut the tree trunks off the bottom of the trees.
4. Stack the trees altogether and apply 3 staples along the middle line.
5. Spread the half parts of the trees around in a circle so the tree will sit on a table.
6. Optional: decorate the tree using stickers, beads, chenille stems, or bits of colored paper.
7. Optional: punch holes in tree branch tips to aid in hanging mini decorations.

**The Content Behind the Activity**

Conifers are softwood plants that reproduce by seeds and pollen on cones and have needles or scale-shapes leaves. Most are evergreen, upright trees (e.g. pines, spruces, and firs) and shrubs that grow throughout the world (except in Antarctica) and prefer temperate climate zones. They include the world's smallest tree (Natural Bonsai Cypresses (*Cupressus goveniana*) and Shore Pines (*Pinus contorta*) which can be mature at 8") and the world's tallest trees (Coast Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) which can grow to over 360 ft.). Conifers were the dominant type of vegetation just before the appearance and diversification of angiosperms (flowering plants) about 100 million years ago. Evergreens retain their leaves (needles) year-round, contrasted with deciduous plants that lose all foliage for part of the year.

Evergreen trees (especially firs) and clippings from evergreen shrubs (holly, mistletoe) have been part of Winter Holiday celebrations for centuries, and part of in-home decorations as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century. During cold winter months, when most of the landscape is dead or dormant, evergreen plants bring good cheer and hope, and they serve as reminders that the environment will again grow green and lush in the upcoming spring.

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