



FUN FACT #8: Wildfire Fuels

Target age group

- Grade 3 – High School

Information

- Fuel, one leg of the Fire Triangle is needed to support a wildfire. Tree leaves and needles are two examples of fuel.
- **Deciduous trees** lose their *leaves* in the autumn. Examples of deciduous trees are: sugar maple, oak, birch and chestnut trees. These leaves are very flammable.



- If it has evergreen needles on its branches all year, it is a **Coniferous tree**. Coniferous “leaves” are often called *needles*. These are particularly dangerous wildfire threat because the tough, waxy needles are “oily”, and very flammable. Coniferous trees shed their needles and add to the fuel that is already on the forest floor. A pine tree is an example of a coniferous (evergreen) tree.

Activity

- Q1: Name 3 other types of deciduous trees.
- Q2: Name 2 other types of evergreen trees.
- Q3: If eastern white pine trees have an average of 27,000 seeds/pound and eastern hemlock trees have an average of 187,000 seeds/pound, what type trees are they?
- Q4: A wildfire burning in what type of fuel would take longer to put out, the maple leaf or the hemlock needle, and why?

Answers: 1. ash, beech and all types of fruit trees 2. hemlock and spruce trees 3. coniferous 4. hemlock, because the needles are very small, more fuel can compact into a small space and the needles are full of oil