



Winter Tree Bingo

30 mins to ongoing / 1+ people / Outside / Parent Assistance Required

Winter Tree ID

We often identify trees by their leaves or fruit or nuts, but there are ways we can identify trees in the winter too --even when everything else has fallen away.

Did you know that tree buds are made before winter?

This bingo card below contains trees common to the parks we spend time in, but you'll find many of these trees in neighbourhoods throughout the city.

Materials:

- The bingo card and Glossary of Terms sheet
- Access to the trees!
- Tape or something to secure twigs to the page

References

[LEAF Winter Tree ID Key.](#)
[Trees in Canada.](#)

How to Play

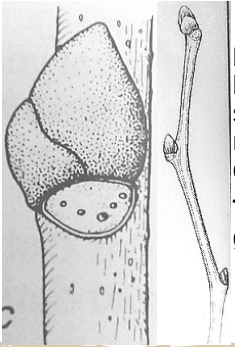
Take the bingo card and glossary of terms sheet outside with you or bring twigs home with you. If they belong to any of the trees on your bingo card, attach them to the appropriate box.



HINT

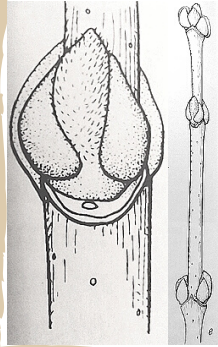
The best approach with 4-6 year olds will be to use the pictures to compare the buds you find, and then you can read out some attributes to confirm or refute the guess.

American Basswood - *Tilia americana*



Buds: 2 visible bud scales; smooth, rounded, reddish. Tips diverge from twig
Twig: greenish gray; zigzag.

Manitoba Maple - *Acer negundo*



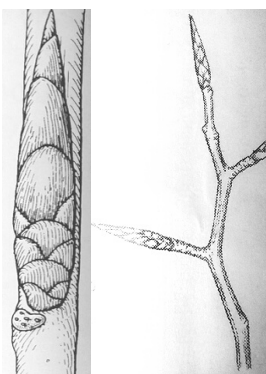
Buds: Terminal bud blunt and rounded, covered with fuzzy white hairs.
Twig: Moderately stout. Green to purple, often with a white dusting on surface.

White Oak - *Quercus alba*



Buds: Crowded at tip. Short, rounded, reddish-brown. Lateral buds point away from twig.
Twig: Moderately stout. Green to red to gray. Mostly hairless.

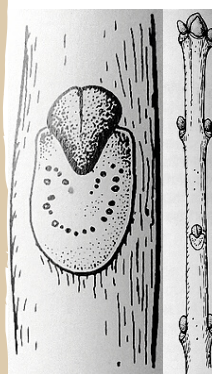
American Beech - *Fagus grandifolia*



Buds: 3/4 to 1 inch long and pointed. Many overlapping scales. Brown-gray.
Twig: Slender, light brown, slightly zigzag.

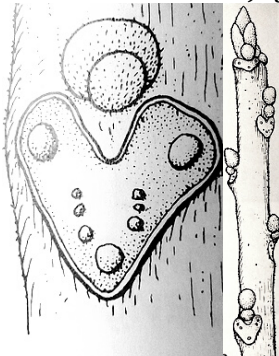
Can you find them all?

White Ash - *Fraxinus americana*



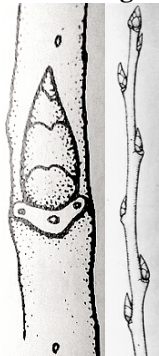
Buds: Terminal bud slightly cone-shaped, longer than lateral buds. Blunt, 4-sided, reddish brown. 1st lateral buds near terminal bud.
Twig: Stout, purplish or grayish.

Black Walnut - *Juglans nigra*



Buds: Terminal bud distinct. Pale grey, fuzzy.
Twig: Stout & light brown. Chambered pith inside.

Trembling Aspen - *Populus tremuloides*



Buds: Reddish brown, may be gummy. Conical, pointed at tip and pressed against twig. 6-7 scales. Lateral buds smaller than terminal bud.
Twig: Slender, shiny, dark green or brownish-gray.

Red Oak - *Quercus rubra*



Buds: Crowded near the tip. Shiny reddish brown. Tall and pointed.
Twigs: Moderately stout, reddish-brown & shiny.



Winter Tree Bingo

Glossary of Terms

If some or all of the terms in Winter Tree Bingo are new to you, don't worry! With just a little effort you'll learn some cool words and a whole new way to see the trees that live among us.

A big thank you to the Wisconsin Centre for Environmental Education and LEAF for putting together the beautiful glossary with pictures below. Use this as a supplement to the bingo card.

Terminal Bud: The bud formed at the tip of the twig.

False Terminal Bud: A lateral bud that assumes the function of the terminal bud. When the growing tip withers or falls away, the closest lateral bud to the twig tip substitutes as a terminal bud.



Note the part of the branch from last year's growth that extends beyond the base of the bud.

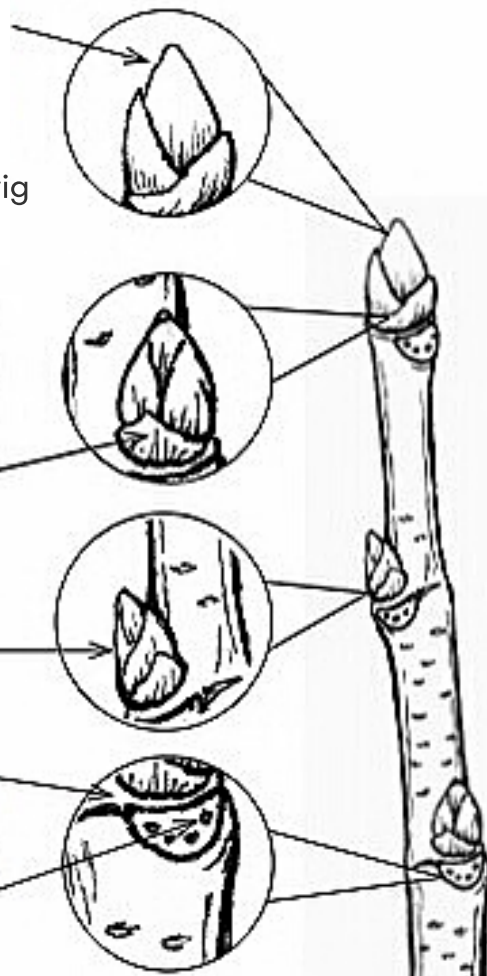


Bud Scales: Small scale-like structures that are modified leaves covering the bud during its winter dormancy.

Lateral Bud: The buds formed on the side of a twig, not the bud at the end of the twig.

Leaf Scar: A scar left on the twig when the leaf falls.

Vascular Bundle Scars: A small mark on a leaf scar indicating a point where a vein from the leaf was once connected with the stem.



* Caregiver's Corner

We love pairing games with learning. It often brings motivation into the learning process, especially when a challenge is involved.

Additional outcomes include:

- Naturalist terms
- Pattern recognition
- Engagement with local environment
- Mapping of neighbourhood trees
- Continuous connection through all seasons

We encourage caregivers to expand further learning by asking questions such as:

- What trees do you know that aren't on the bingo sheet?
- Do any buds have a smell?
- What are some ways Indigenous communities interact with trees in the winter?
- What animals use trees as homes in winter?

