Name: _____ Date: _____

Evergreen Investigation

Compare evergreen and deciduous trees and investigate why their winter strategies differ.

Different trees, different strategies, but all amazing ways to survive the winter!

The Question

Why do evergreen trees keep their leaves (needles) in the winter, while deciduous trees lose their leaves? How do these different strategies help them survive?

Make a Prediction

Which strategy do you think would be better in a cold winter — keeping leaves or losing them? Why?

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What You'll Need

- ○ Pictures of evergreen and deciduous trees (or look outside)
- ○ Magnifying glass (optional)
- ○ Paper and pencil
- ○ Observation chart (below)

Observe and Compare

1. Look closely at an evergreen tree (such as a pine, fir, or spruce) and a deciduous tree (such as an oak, maple, or birch). Use your senses to make observations. You can look at pictures or trees outside.

2 Record What You Notice

Use the chart below to compare the two types of trees. Look at their leaves, branches, bark, and any other interesting details.

3 Think About Survival

How might each tree's strategy help it survive the cold, snow, and limited sunlight of winter? Write your ideas.

Feature	Evergreen Tree (pine, fir, spruce, etc.)	Deciduous Tree (oak, maple, birch, etc.)
Type of leaves		
Leaf appearance		
Branches		
Bark		
What happens in winter?		
Other observations		

Explain

Why do you think evergreen trees keep their leaves (needles) in the winter? Why do you think deciduous trees lose their leaves? Use what you know about sunlight, water, and energy.

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Real-World Connection

These different strategies help trees survive in the same winter environment. How do you think it would be if all trees used the same strategy?

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Try It Further!

- Research a specific tree that grows near you.
- Find out how animals use evergreen or deciduous trees in winter.
- Draw a diagram showing how each tree's strategy helps it survive.
- Create a "Winter Tree Survivor" poster with facts and illustrations.

STEM Skills & Standards

- Make and support explanations from evidence
- Understand how living things adapt to their environment
- Compare and contrast structures and functions
- NGSS: 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1