





Forest Hike Checklist #2: Tree Identification

✓	Photos	Description
		<p>Paper Birch: One way to identify a paper birch or white birch tree is by its color. When everything around you is shades of green, this tree stands out with its white bark. The thin white outer bark protects the tree, but can sometimes be seen peeling in sheets that look like paper. Please do not peel the bark. The leaves are oval and serrated along the edges. Did you know that the bark was used to make canoes?</p>
		<p>Eastern White Pine: One way to identify this tree is to look at the pinecones beneath the tree. Note that they are long and narrow. (See middle photo.) A second way is to look closely at a bundle of needles. (See last photo.) Count the individual needles. There should be five in the group. If you spell the word w-h-i-t-e, it equals the number of needles! Did you know the white pine is our state tree?</p>
		<p>Sugar Maple: There are several kinds of maple trees in Maine. A sugar maple can be recognized by its leaves. They are dark green on top and pale green underneath. If you look closely, notches on the leaves are U shaped. The bark is tight and hard looking and does not usually peel. Did you know that sugar maple trees are tapped in the spring to make maple syrup?</p>
		<p>Balsam Fir: This is the most abundant tree in the Maine woods. The branches with its needles look flat. In the spring, new growth is a much lighter green. The needles have a fragrant smell often used in candles and air fresheners. The cones grow upward on the tree. Did you know that these trees are sold as Christmas trees and used to make wreaths?</p>