



# Common Trees of Kentucky



# Become a Tree Detective

## Trees

A wise old owl once asked of me  
Do you know how useful you can be?  
I thought for a while and then replied,  
Here are some uses that I provide:  
A home for birds, food for man  
Shade and protection for the land.  
I help to hold the soil together  
And help provide man with water.  
The owl shook his head wisely and said  
That's true! Then why do men chop at you?  
Ah, I sighed, because you see  
I am different – I am a tree.

Joy Anne Howell-age 9

Type  
Composition  
Arrangement  
Characteristics  
Shape

# Type



Virginia pine (needles)



Eastern red cedar (scale)

**Conifer**



Bur oak (broadleaf)



A. Hornbeam (broadleaf)

**Deciduous**

# Leaf Arrangement



alternate



opposite

# Leaf Composition



simple



compound

# Leaf Margins



Entire



Serrate



Lobed



Toothed

# Leaf Shape



# Eastern White Pine



**Pinus strobus**

# Shortleaf Pine



**Pinus echinata**

# Virginia Pine



*Pinus virginiana*

# Eastern Redcedar



*Juniperus virginiana*

# Baldcypress



*Taxodium distichum*

# Black Walnut



*Juglans nigra*

# Shagbark Hickory



*Carya ovata*

# American Beech



*Fagus grandifolia*

# White Oak



Quercus alba

# Northern Red Oak



*Quercus rubra*

# American Elm



*Ulmus americana*

# Yellow-Poplar



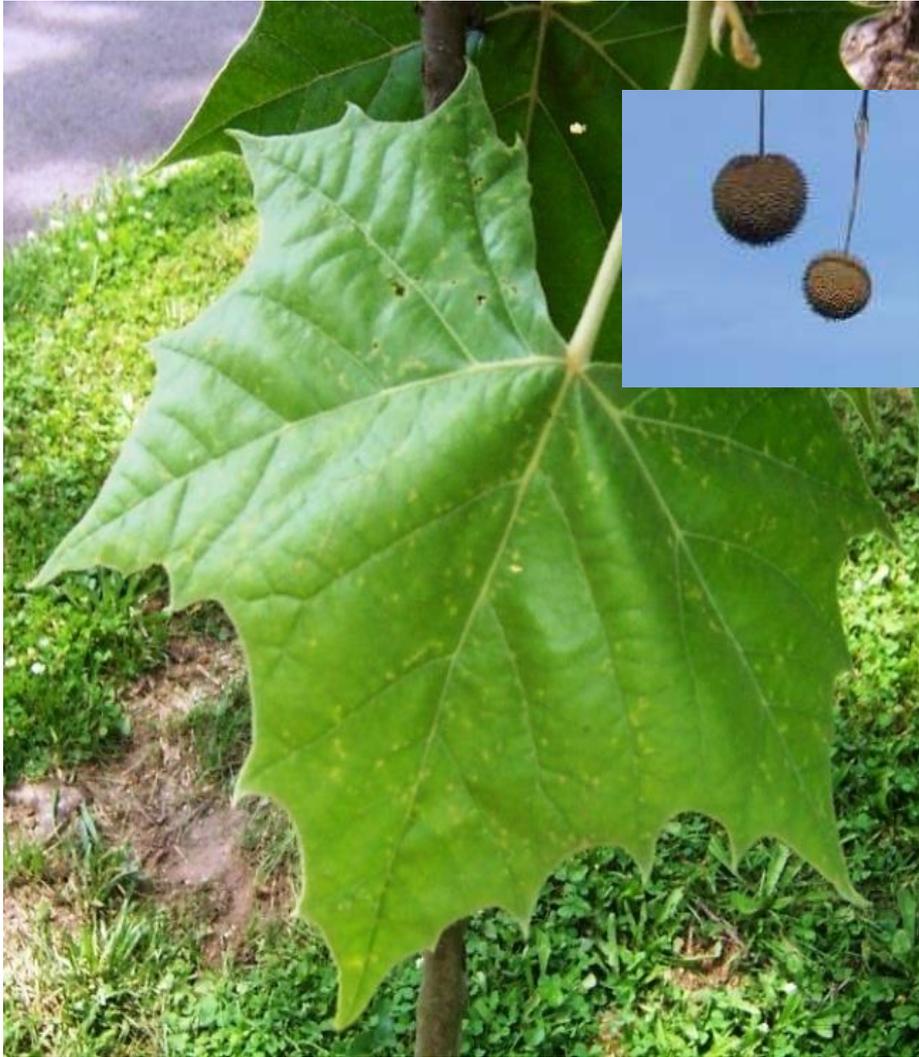
*Liriodendron tulipifera*

# Sweetgum



*Liquidambar styraciflua*

# American Sycamore



*Platanus occidentalis*

# Black Cherry



*Prunus serotina*

# Eastern Redbud



*Cercis canadensis*

# Kentucky Coffeetree



*Gymnocladus dioica*

# Black Locust



*Robinia pseudoacacia*

# Sugar Maple



*Acer saccharum*

# Flowering Dogwood



Cornus florida

# Ohio Buckeye



*Aesculus glabra*

# White Ash



*Fraxinus Americana*

# Something For You To Do

**Make a drawing of a forest. Include plants that are found together. Show dominant, canopy trees, such as oaks or pines. Also show understory trees, which live "under" the canopy. Then show plants that live on the forest floor, such as ferns or mosses. Lastly, don't forget parasitic vines, which climb up taller plants. Remember: There are more shrubs and shorter plants at the edge of a forest, where they get more light. They also tend to be "thicker," or closer together, there.**

**Also, where there is one plant, there are usually more of the same species. For instance, a forest dominated by Black Oak and White Oak will have many of those two species, and if one tree has Poison Ivy crawling up it, then others probably do too.**

**To make your forest more realistic, you could add some fallen trees and stumps. For an extra challenge, include some animals and fungi. Clearly label all organisms in your drawing.**