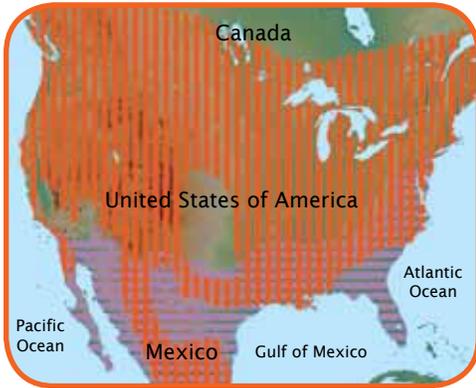


For Creative Minds

This For Creative Minds educational section contains activities to engage children in learning while making it fun at the same time. The activities build on the underlying subjects introduced in the story. While older children may be able to do these activities on their own, we encourage adults to work with the young children in their lives. Even if the adults have long forgotten or never learned this information, they can still work through the activities and be experts in their children's eyes! Exposure to these concepts at a young age helps to build a strong foundation for easier comprehension later in life. This section may be photocopied or printed from our website by the owner of this book for educational, non-commercial uses. Cross-curricular teaching activities for use at home or in the classroom, interactive quizzes, and more are available online. Go to www.ArbordalePublishing.com and click on the book's cover to explore all the links.

Chipping Sparrow Migration



Chipping sparrows live in North America. Their summer breeding grounds cover **most of the United States and parts of Canada and Mexico**. In the fall, chipping sparrows travel (migrate) to the **southern United States and Mexico**. They travel in flocks with other migrating birds, especially other sparrow species.

There are a few places in the continental US where chipping sparrows do not live. But even in these areas, they can be seen during their migration.

Bird Watching Tips: Chipping Sparrow

Chipping sparrows have rust-orange feathers on the tops of their heads and a black line across their eyes. These colors are brightest during the summer breeding season and fade at other times of the year.

Can you spot any chipping sparrows? Use these tips to look for signs of chipping sparrows in your area.

- In the fall and winter, chipping sparrows often search for food (forage) in groups. Watch for flocks on the ground near trees.
- Listen for a long, loud trill or small *chip* sounds.
- Chipping sparrows like to live in parks, neighborhoods, pine forests, and open woodlands.
- Female chipping sparrows build nests 3-10 feet (1-3 meters) off the ground. Their nests are usually in evergreen trees, but sometimes in deciduous trees. Most nests take about 3 to 4 days to build. Chipping sparrow nests are loose cups of roots, grasses, and animal hair hidden in the leaves at the end of a branch. After finishing the nest, the female lays 2-7 sky blue eggs with a few dark blotches.



The Birds and the Trees



A **habitat** is a place where a plant or animal lives and grows. All living things work in their habitat to meet their **basic needs**: food, water, air and shelter. After meeting their basic needs, living things need to make new living things like themselves (reproduce). Living things also need to protect themselves from harm.

Plants and animals have to share their habitat. Birds and trees help each other in different ways. They can help each other meet their basic needs, reproduce, or protect themselves.

Read the sentences below and decide whether the action helps the birds or the trees.

1. Birds eat seeds, flowers, and berries that grow on trees.
2. Birds carry a tree's seeds to different places so they can grow into new trees.
3. Tree branches provide a place for birds to build their nests.
4. Birds protect trees by eating insects that could harm the trees.
5. Trees shelter birds from the weather.
6. Trees have nooks and holes where birds can hide food to eat later.



Helps birds: 1, 3, 5, 6
Helps trees: 2, 4

Tree Adaptations

All living things need energy to live and grow. Some animals eat other animals for food (carnivores). Other animals eat plants for food (herbivores). But plants don't eat animals or other plants. Plants make their own sugary food, through a process called **photosynthesis**. Plants need three things to make their food: energy from the sun, water, and carbon dioxide.

Plant leaves absorb energy from sunlight. Plants have roots that take in water from the ground. Carbon dioxide is a gas in the air. Leaves have small openings that let in carbon dioxide. But these openings can also let water out. Different types of trees have different adaptations so they don't lose too much water through their leaves.



Trees that drop their leaves are called **deciduous** trees. Deciduous trees generally have broad, flat leaves. These leaves can absorb lots of carbon dioxide and energy from the sun. But they also let more water evaporate into the air. In the winter, the weather is often cold and dry. When the air is dry, plants lose more water through their leaves. Deciduous trees drop their leaves in the fall to protect against water-loss. When the spring rains come, they grow new leaves for the year.

Trees that keep their leaves all year round are called **evergreen** trees. Evergreens usually have small, needle-like leaves. Because the leaves are so small and narrow, the tree needs lots of needles to gather enough carbon dioxide and energy from the sun. These leaves have a thick, waxy coat. This coat protects the leaves against water-loss. Evergreen trees keep their leaves through the cold, dry winter.

Evergreen or Deciduous

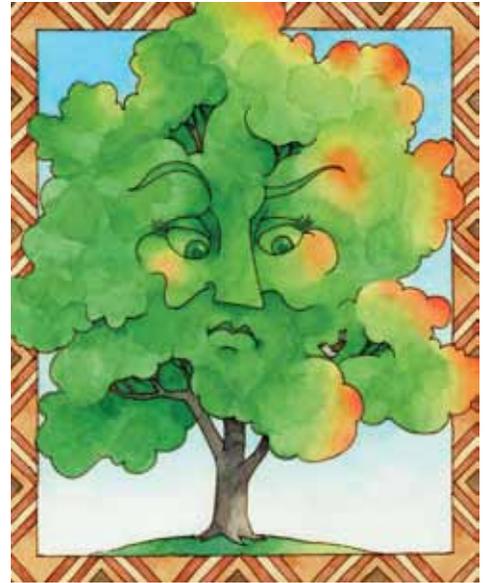
Use clues from the story to sort the trees below into evergreen trees or deciduous trees. Answers are below.



juniper



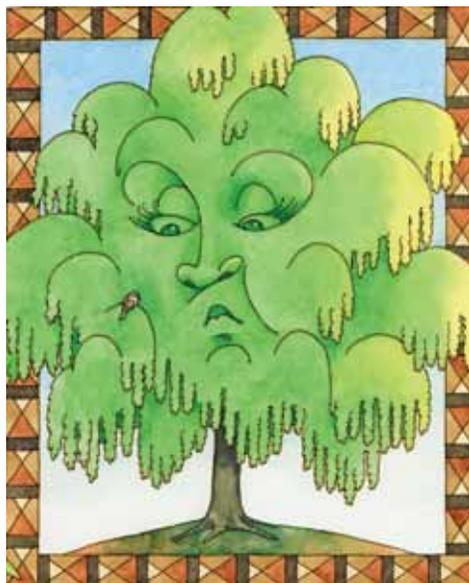
oak



maple



pine



willow



spruce

Evergreen: juniper, pine, spruce
Deciduous: oak, maple, willow