

ADAPTATIONS

An **adaptation** is a feature or trait that helps a plant or animal survive. To learn about tree adaptations in Oregon environments, do the following activities and answer the questions.



Engage

Watch the two-minute video [Forest Fact Break: Tree Biology](#), which explains how the different parts of a tree help it live. What features or adaptations help trees survive?

Explore

Go outside and find a tree in your backyard, schoolyard, neighborhood or nearby park. **BE SURE TO CHECK WITH AN ADULT BEFORE HEADING OUT.**

In the space here or in your science journal, draw a picture of the tree. In your drawing, point out the features or adaptations of the tree that help it:

- Get water
- Capture sunlight
- Protect itself
- Reproduce

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin grey border, intended for students to draw a tree and label its adaptations. The box occupies the lower right portion of the page.

Explain

Watch the two-minute video [Forest Fact Break: Forest Types](#), which describes different forests in Oregon.

Why are there different forest types in different regions (ecosystems) of Oregon?

How are different forest trees adapted to different ecosystems?

Elaborate

1. Pick an ecosystem such as a desert, a tropical rainforest, a temperate forest (like Oregon), the Arctic, an island, a mountain range or a field.
2. Design a tree that has adaptations to help it survive in that ecosystem. In the space here or in your science journal, draw a picture of the tree, labeling its adaptations. Examples might include waxy needles to shed rain, branches that allow snow to slide off, or big leaves to capture more sunlight.



Evaluate

How does a tree's adaptations help it survive in its ecosystem?