



**Grade Level:** 3-5

**Essential Skills:** 1, 2, 4, 5, 9

**CCSS:** 3.RF.4, 3.RI.1, 3.W.8, 3.W.10, 3.SL.1, 4.RF.4, 4.RI.1, 4.W.8, 4.W.10, 4.SL.1, 5.RF.4, 5.RI.10, 5.W.8, 5.W.10

**NGSS:** 3-LS1-1

**Time:** 50 minutes

**Materials:**

**Life of Douglas-fir Kit\* or:  
Per Student**

- 3"x3" *Life Cycle card*\*
- 3.5" x 3.5" paper gift card box or jewelry box\*
- Christmas Tree booklet\*
- Green paint\*
- 3" wooden Christmas tree\*
- Glue\*
- Paintbrush

\*Included in the kit from Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom

**AITC Library Resources:**

**Books:**

- Christmas Tree Farm
- The Tree Farmer
- The Life Cycle of a Tree

**More Lessons:**

- Discover Christmas Trees
- The Gift of Trees

## The Life of Douglas-fir

**Description:**

Students will explore the life cycle of a Douglas-fir Christmas tree through this fun craft learning the various stages of growth.

**Activity Directions:**

**Part 1: The Story of Christmas Trees**

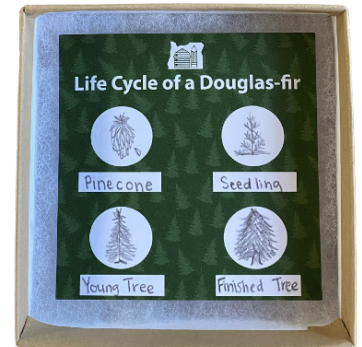
1. Read the book *Christmas Farm* by Mary Lyn Ray.
2. After reading the book, ask students the following questions:
  - a. What caused some of the trees to be "lost"?
  - b. What kind of care did the trees need throughout the year?
  - c. What age were the trees when Wilma sold them to customers?



3. Tell students they will be learning about how Christmas trees grow in Oregon.

**Part 2: Introduction to an Oregon Christmas Tree Farm**

1. Explain to students that they will be watching a short video to learn more about how trees are grown on a farm in Oregon.
2. Watch *Christmas Tree, How Does it Grow?* by True Food TV: <https://youtu.be/lcmVOcCWbQg>



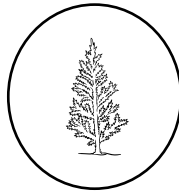
3. After the video, ask students the following questions:
  - a. What tools did the Christmas tree growers use to harvest and care for the trees?
  - b. How do Christmas tree growers care for the trees?
  - c. What happens to the Christmas trees after they are cut at the Noble Mountain Tree Farm?

**Part 3: The Life of Douglas-fir Activity**

1. Provide students with a set of materials: a life cycle card, Christmas tree booklet and a 3.5"x3.5" paper jewelry box.
2. Read through the Christmas tree reader as a class or individually. After, instruct students to fill in the life cycle card with the following stages of growth: pinecone, seedling, young tree and finished tree. Then, in the circles above the labels on the life cycle card have students sketch the growth stages based on the pictures in their booklets.



**Pinecone**



**Seedling**



**Young Tree**



**Finished Tree**

3. After students have completed their life cycle card, have them glue it inside the paper jewelry box on the bottom piece.
4. Then, provide students with a wooden Christmas tree, green paint and a paintbrush. Have students glue the wooden Christmas tree to the top of the lid of the jewelry box.
5. Instruct students to paint the tree to represent a Douglas-fir Christmas tree like they saw in the video.