

WINTER

in the Alt Pirineu
Natural Park

Play along with the
seasons!



Explora el Parc
Parc Natural
de l'Alt Pirineu

The Little Spruce Tree¹

Once upon a time there was a very self-conscious teenage spruce tree, fifteen or sixteen years old, standing on its own in the middle of a forest, sad as sad could be, and moaning and pouting: "I hate these dull old prickly leaves I have. All the other trees in the forest have much nicer leaves than me."

And it passed the day, the teenage spruce tree, complaining to all the other trees about its ugly foliage. When it got dark, and it was time to go to sleep, the spruce tree thought to itself: "I would love to have leaves of gold, just once, to see how wonderful that would be."

The next morning, when it woke not long after dawn, the little spruce tree was astonished to find that overnight it had been draped from head to foot in the most beautiful gold leaves, that were shining now in the light of the rising sun. "How fantastic," the spruce tree exclaimed. "What lovely leaves I have now. I think they really suit me, and they're all gold, every one of them."

But so dazzling were the golden leaves that a passing robber saw them, and filled his swagbag with them, and left the little spruce tree quite bare. "I don't want gold leaves any more," the little spruce tree said, "because bad people just steal them off you. Now I wish my leaves were made of glass. That would be really something, and everyone would admire me."

The little spruce tree went to sleep that night and dreamed that its leaves were all made of the thinnest, most exquisite glass. And the next morning when it woke, all its leaves had turned to glass overnight, hanging on the branches like so many icicles

But that day, all of a sudden, a great wind got up, and blew hard, and harder, and the glass leaves fell off and crashed to the ground and broke into smithereens. "Leaves of glass are no good either," the little spruce tree decided, "because they only break. Now I'd like to try proper green leaves like the other trees."

¹ The Little Fir Tree, by Hans Christian Andersen. You can listen to this story in English on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWkoTSMi5ls>

And that night the teenage spruce tree went to sleep thinking how brilliant it would be to have proper green leaves like the other trees. When it woke the next morning, almost afraid to look, it found itself covered with big green leaves. "Now this is more like it," went the little spruce tree, and flaunted its green leaves for all to see and admire.

Just then a herd of sheep came through the forest, and when the sheep saw the luscious green leaves they all baaed at once and rushed over to eat them. And the little spruce tree was left stripped to its bark once more, shivering and shaking in the cold wind. "I don't want gold leaves, or glass leaves, or green leaves any more," the older, wiser spruce tree declared to the tree world at large. "What I really want are my own fine, straight leaves back again, even if they are prickly."

And that night the little spruce tree went asleep sorry for not having just stayed the way it was, and the next morning when it woke it was clothed once again all over with its own resin-scented, evergreen, sharp, pointed leaves, that the sheep didn't eat, and the thieves didn't steal, and the wind didn't blow down and break, and that were all the cosy cover the little spruce tree needed to keep itself dormant but alive all through the winter. And so it grew into a great, tall, proud and prickly spruce tree, offering shelter to all kinds of plants and animals, and food for the capercaillie in winter.



Here are some mixed up anagrams of the names of trees.
Sort them out for yourself letter by letter on the dotted lines

EZLAH	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
AKO	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
EINP	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
RSUEPC	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
PELAM	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
LLWWIO	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
RAPPLO	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
WHORNAHT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
HSA	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
CIRHB	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
MOHLKOA	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
TLUWAN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
SCHUTTEN	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NOWAR	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
REDLA	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	

Hazel, Oak, Pine, Spruce, Maple, Willow,
Poplar, Hawthorn, Ash, Birch, Holm Oak,
Walnut, Chestnut, Alder



¡Make a picture in the snow!

- ✱ First of all, wrap up well! It's cold in the park in winter!
- ✱ Look for a place where there is lots of snow with no footprints on it.
- ✱ Lie down on the snow, facing upwards, and move your arms and your legs in and out.
- ✱ Now stand up carefully, so as not to disturb the snow, and you will see how you have left a picture on the ground as if you had wings.
- ✱ Feel free to take a photo of your art work and send it to us at <https://www.facebook.com/PNAItPirineu>.

Using this, and other, tools and techniques, such as sticks, or your boots, or leaves, or stones, see how many other forms of animals and plants you can make in the snow.



Watch, listen, smell, taste, and take notes, or draw, or photograph.



FUNGI

On rocks, trees, and on the ground



BUDS

Bunched together, on their own, on opposite sides of the branch ...



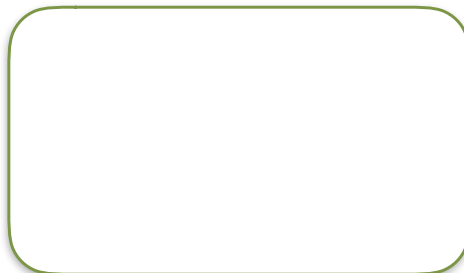
FAECES

Round, oval, from some hoofed animal...



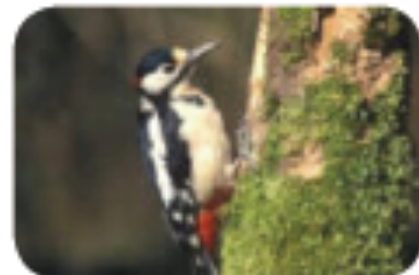
SQUIRRELS

Leaping from branch to branch, and pausing to eat and watch



SEEDS

There are still some seeds on the trees. Can you see them?



SOUNDS

Woodpeckers make a drumming noise when they use their beaks to dig grubs out of dead trees.



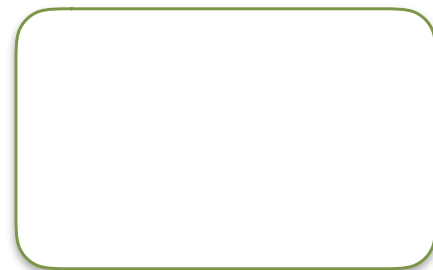
CATKINS

In February there are already catkins on the hazels



MISTLETOE

White balls of the seed of the mistletoe on its host tree



PEOPLE

In winter many of us take to the snow on snowshoes or on skis

How many of these kinds of ice and snow have you seen in the winter landscape?



fresh snow



stalactites



"spray on" look



hoarfrost



ice jewels



snowflake



icy stream



tracks



melting

MAKE A WINTER WREATH



Gather your materials

Pine cones, fallen leaves, seeds, grasses, twigs, branches ...

Make a centre for your wreath

Use thin, pliable twigs to weave the round centre. Tie it together with the long stems of grass.

Decorate it yourself

Add colour and texture to the centre with pine cones and bits of foliage, and then use spray paint and coloured ribbons to finish it off.

And now hang it!

Use a piece of coloured ribbon or cord to make a hook for hanging your wreath on your door or on a wall.

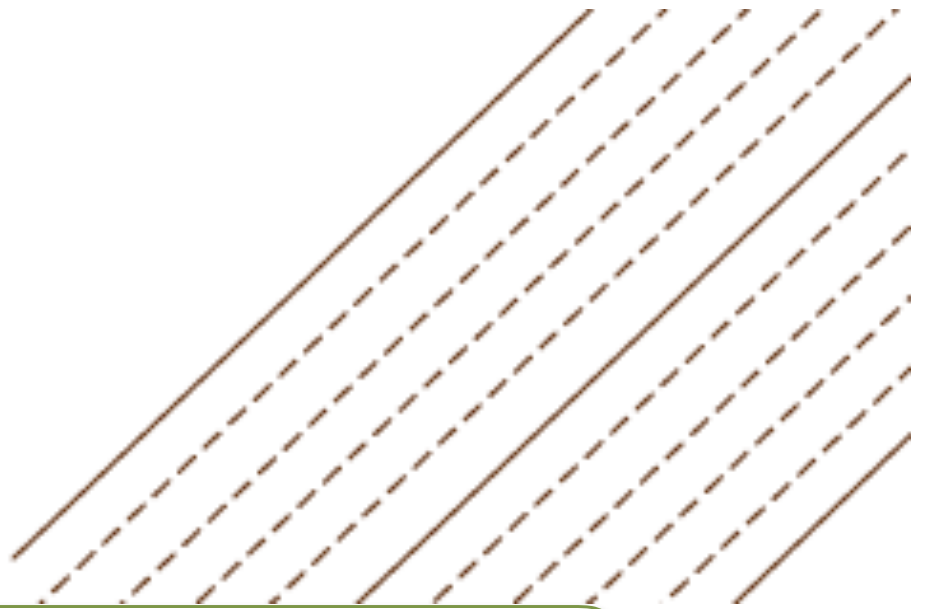


More ideas

If you don't have supple twigs to make a round centrepiece, use other pieces of wood to make a square, or a triangle, or a star.

And those pine cones sprayed with silver will make your Christmas wreath shine!





Catalan proverbs:

When there's mist on the mountain, the shepherd's in his cabin

When the swallow comes the winter goes

In winter your best friend is a good warm coat

Hot summer, tough winter

When its winter mists for us, it's snow in the next county

If there's thunder in winter it will be a good year

In winter what you need is good grub and hot wine

A calm autumn and there'll be wind in winter

When April's over, winter's gone

Thunder in October means snow in winter

