

● **Bois d'Arc** (*Maclura pomifera*)



Also known as *Osage Orange*, it is known for its distinctive fruit with wrinkled yellow-green skin. Its leaves oval, tapered to a long point at the tip. It's brown bark has thin ridges which can sometimes reveal a slight orange color. Wood from the Bois d'Arc is very strong and resistant to rot making it a favorite for fence posts, archery bows, and various musical instruments.

Mesquite (*Prosopis*)



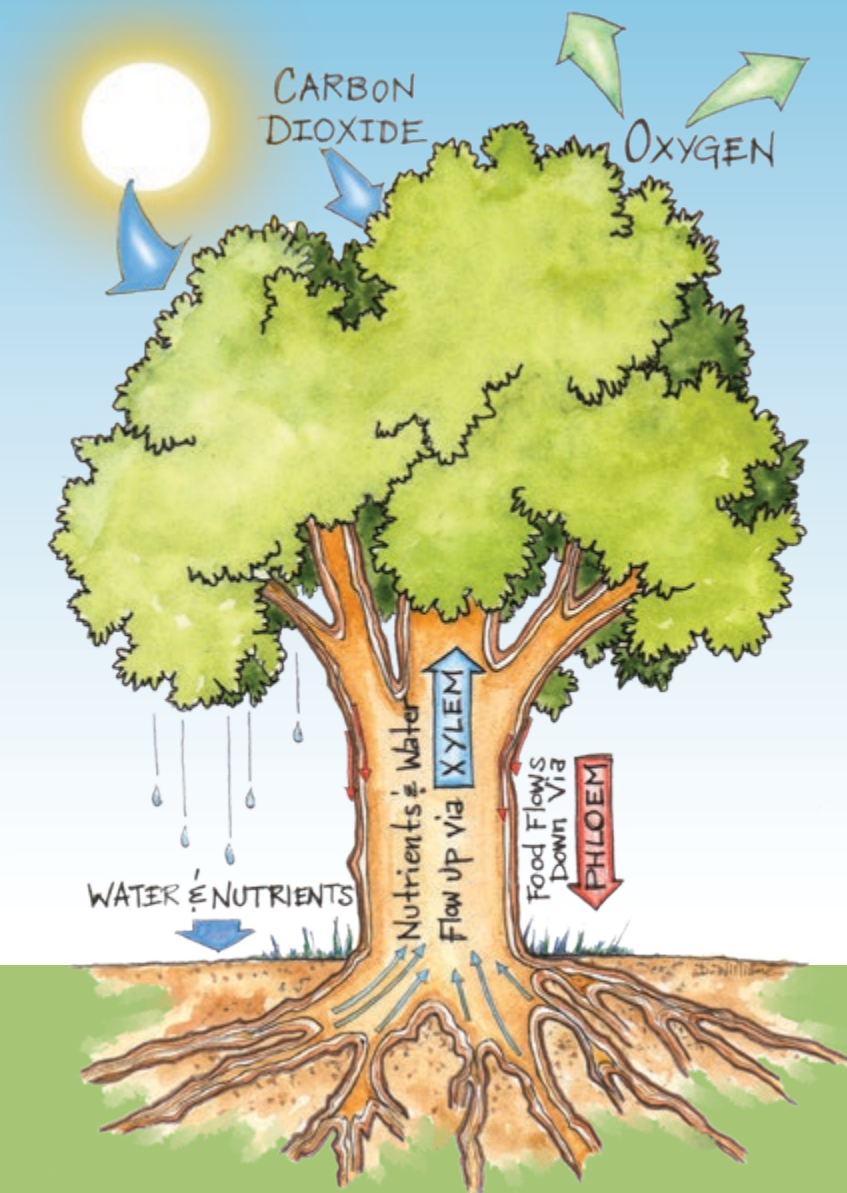
Mesquite is a small tree that grows in the dry climate of the American Southwest. They have long compound leaves with around 10-20 leaflets per leaf. They produce long yellow flowers in spring that become pods when pollinated. Mesquite is used by people in many ways. The seed pods can be dried and ground into flour for baked goods. The wood is well known for smoking barbecue, but it is also good furniture lumber.

Hercules' Club (*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*)



Hercules Club is easily identified by its pyramid-shaped bumps along its trunk. The spearhead-shaped leaves are waxy with toothed edges. Small flowers and fruit can be found growing in clusters from spring through summer. One of the names of this tree is 'Toothache Tree' because the twigs and leaves have a numbing effect when chewed. Native Americans used this tree to help treat the pain of toothaches.

The Need to Know: **How Trees Grow**



Plants and trees have the ability to make their own food in a process known as **photosynthesis**. They do this by sucking water and nutrients from the soil up through their xylem and into their leaves. The water and nutrients are combined with carbon dioxide and sunlight to make a sugary food called **glucose**. This food then travels down through the phloem to the rest of the tree, so it can grow.

Illustrations by David Williams, Wingin' it Works

Soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*)



Soapberry can be identified by its long and narrow tapered leaves. Before fruiting, the tree shows off with dense bunches of small white flowers. The round fruit grows in clusters and ranges in color from yellow to deep gold depending on ripeness. They get their name from the saponids that are in the berries which can be whipped into a soapy lather and have even been used to clean the clothing of people in the Southwest.

Texas Ash (*Fraxinus albicans*)



A medium-sized tree with compound leaves, the Texas ash grows well in dry, rocky soil. The leaves are round with a small pointed tip. Gray/brown ridges cover the bark along the trunk. It has slender winged seeds, called samaras, that attract birds, deer and rabbits. Ash lumber is strong and is commonly used to make flooring, baseball bats, and tool handles.

Eastern Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)



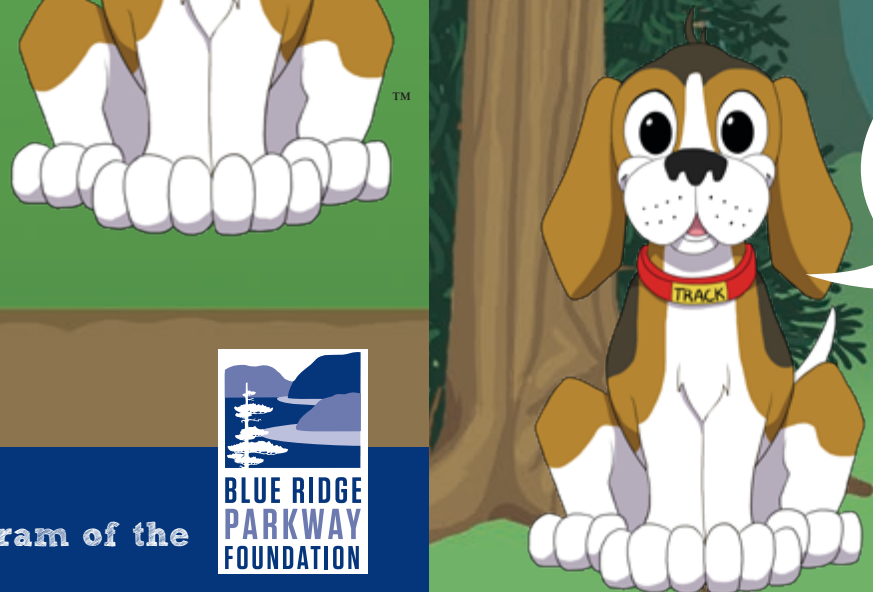
Black walnut trees grow best with lots of water and sunlight. They have dark brown or blackish bark and **compound leaves** (many leaflets on one stem). The nuts fall from the tree in autumn and are a favorite food of wild animals and humans alike, though removing the nut from the husk and shell is a rather messy and difficult process. Black walnut is also prized for its timber.



The Need for Trees

Trees are very important to people, animals, insects, fungi, and even other trees. This is because trees provide so many things for people and the forest, including shelter, habitat, food and oxygen. This adventure will help you identify six of the most common trees found along this trail

For your safety, stay on the trail and be aware of your surroundings. Poison ivy climbs up the trunks of trees, too... so if you see a hairy vine, don't hug that tree!



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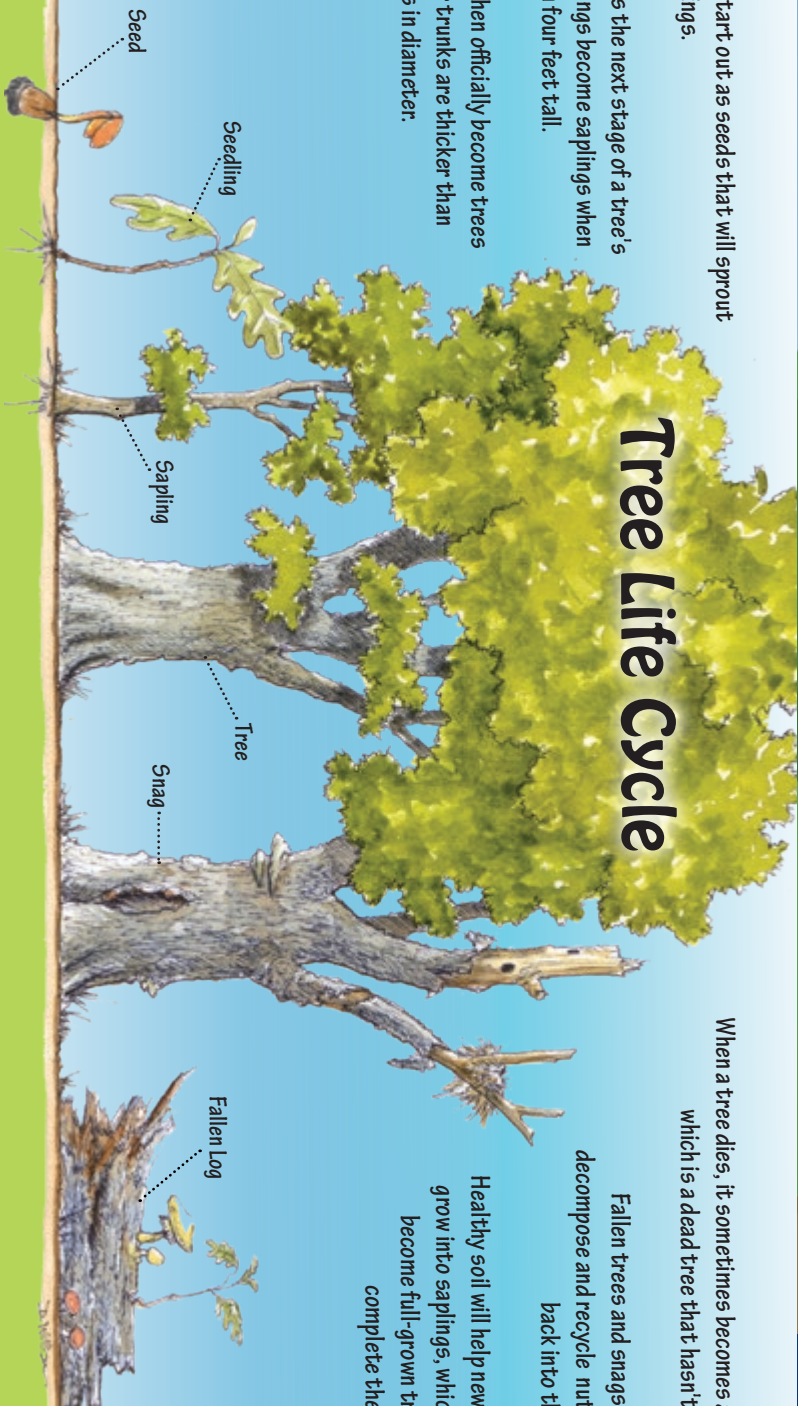
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All trees start out as seeds that will sprout into seedlings.

A sapling is the next stage of a tree's life. Seedlings become saplings when they reach four feet tall.

Saplings then officially become trees when their trunks are thicker than four inches in diameter.

Tree Life Cycle



When a tree dies, it sometimes becomes a snag, which is a dead tree that hasn't fallen. Fallen trees and snags slowly decompose and recycle nutrients back into the soil. Healthy soil will help new seeds grow into saplings, which then become full-grown trees to complete the cycle.

Can you find a...

Seed? ___

Seedling? ___

Sapling? ___

Tree? ___

Snag? ___

Fallen Log? ___