

TREES

Trees grow from seeds. When the seeds germinate, the tree begins to grow. As the seed starts to grow, it develops a stem and a root. The leaves unfold and develop into their adult form. This little tree is called a seedling.

Once the seedling grows, the root system becomes stronger. The roots of a tree absorb nutrients and moisture from the soil. The bark that covers the tree trunk helps protect the transport of these nutrients. The tree's bark is its skin. It protects the tree from animals. It also prevents the tree from drying out.

Buds of trees contain very small leaves folded inside a case. Once these small leaves burst out of the case, the leaves get larger and unfold. Leaves get energy from sunlight. They use this energy to change carbon dioxide and water into fuel for the tree.

There are several types of leaves for different types of trees. There are broad-leafed trees. These trees have either simple or compound types of leaves. Simple leaves have one main leaf, whereas compound leaves are a group of leaves attached to one stalk. Some trees have needles and scales. These are found on conifers. These include pines, redwoods and cypresses.

Some trees have blossoms that become fruit. The blossoms are pollinated by animals such as bees, birds, and bats. Fruits and berries are produced on these trees. The animals feed on the fruit and help spread the seeds of the tree. Some trees produce nuts and cones.

Draw and label the following words from the story:

seeds

stem

root

seedling

bark

buds

leaves

simple leaf

compound leaf

needles

blossoms

cones