



## Pine Cone Scavenger Hunt

Pine cones are how conifer trees reproduce. Conifer trees have needles instead of large flat leaves.

Tiny male pine cones release thousands of grains of dusty pollen that can float in the wind for miles. If the pollen lands on a large woody female pine cone, it will produce seeds that are well protected by the hard, sappy, and tightly closed wooden scales.

Only when the seeds have finished growing will the pine cone open and let the seeds blow away with the wind to land on the ground, sprout, and grow into a new conifer tree.

How many pine cones can you find in 5 minutes? \_\_\_\_\_

Trace or draw a picture of two different types of pine cones that you found:

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tear open up a pine cone. Can you find the following?

- Spikes:** Some pine cones protect their seeds with sharp thorns!
- Scales:** These are arranged in overlapping spirals and hold seeds safely inside the cones.
- Sap:** Sticky and smells great! It protects the pine cone from animals and insects.
- Seeds:** These are tiny with a thin wing to help them float in the wind.
- Rachis:** The stick at the center of the pinecone where the scales connect.