

### 3.30 Introducing habitats

**Topic:** Plants

**Subtopic:** Habitats

**Activity type/skill:** Orientation

**Literacy focus:** Vocabulary

#### **Objective**

- Provide orientation to the subtopic.
- Make links to prior knowledge.
- Link to the science curriculum.
- Introduce technical vocabulary.
- Present target vocabulary in context.

#### **What you need**

- Student worksheet (see next page)

#### **What to do**

1. Look at the first three pages of the student worksheet and read the text to the students.
2. Talk about the plants in the pictures.
3. Help them to work out the conditions the plant in the fourth picture is adapted to and write how it is adapted together in the space underneath.
4. Look at the fourth page of the student worksheet and read and discuss the text, then take turns to ask and answer questions about the seasonal cycle of deciduous trees. For example:
  - 'What happens in autumn?'
  - 'Leaves turn colour and drop.'

## Activity thirty

### Why are plants all so different?

All plants have leaves, a stem and roots.

You'd think they would all look much the same – but they don't. Why?

#### It's because:

Plants are adapted to live in different conditions.

Plants adapt so that they can survive.

If they did not adapt they would die.

### This plant lives on a sand dune

Sand dunes get lots of wind and sometimes the sand gets blown away, or blown on top of the plant.



Here's how the plant adapted to the windy conditions:

- Lots of roots grow off the stems and spread through the sand. This helps hold the plant in place.
- The stems grow along the ground so they don't break off in the wind.
- The leaves are narrow and needle-shaped so they don't dry out easily.

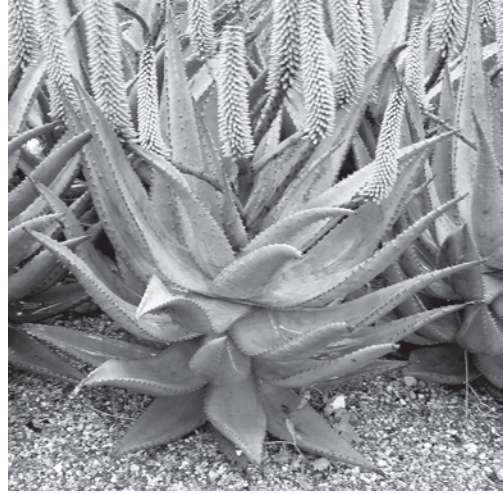
## Activity thirty

### This plant lives in the desert

Deserts are hot and very, very dry.

Here's how this plant adapted to hot dry conditions:

- Very thick stems store water.
- There are no leaves so the plant doesn't lose water through its leaves on hot days.
- Sharp thorns give protection from animals that want to eat the plant. Animals try to get the water stored in the plant.



### This plant lives in water

This plant can only live in still, fresh water.

Here's how this plant adapted to living in the water:

- Roots hold it firmly on the bottom of the pond.
- Long stems hold the leaves up to the light.
- The large leaves float on the surface of the water to catch as much sunlight as possible.
- The leaves are tough and smooth so water runs off their surface easily.



## Glossary

**Adapt:** is when something changes itself to suit the conditions

**Fresh water:** water that does not have salt in it. Most rivers and lakes have fresh water.

**Still:** is when something is not moving



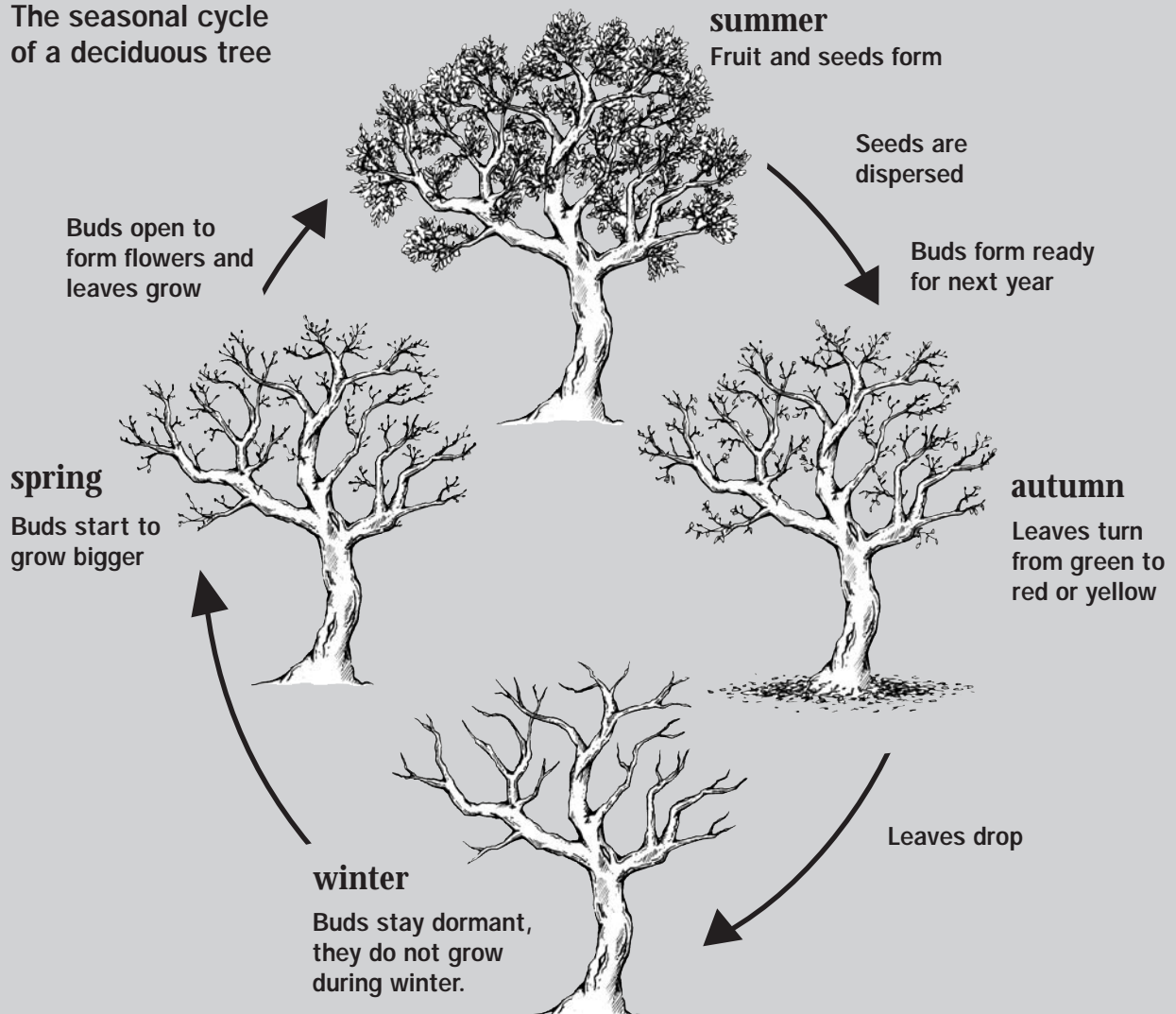
## Evergreen or deciduous?

All trees lose their leaves:

**Evergreen** trees are always covered in leaves. They are always green. The leaves are adapted to survive in all seasons. Evergreen trees drop a few leaves at a time all through the year.

**Deciduous** trees lose all their leaves at once in the autumn. They have no leaves on their branches in winter. The leaves drop off the tree when it gets too cold for them to survive. New leaves grow in spring.

The seasonal cycle  
of a deciduous tree



## Glossary

**a season:** is a part of the year. Each season has a different weather pattern. The year is divided into four seasons in most parts of the world.