

Coniferous Forests



Coniferous Forests are defined by the following:

- *Warm summers and cool winters*
- *Trees grow needles instead of leaves*
- *Trees are green year round*
- *These forests are found in northern parts of North America, Europe and Asia*
- *These forests are also called “boreal” and “taiga” which is Russian for “swamp forest”*

- *Coniferous forest has 3 layers to it: Overstory, Understory, and Ground.*
 - *The ground layer may be dominated by grasses*
 - *The understory is sparse – you can see a long distance through the understory of the coniferous forest*
 - *The overstory contains the tops of the trees and these trees can be very tall*
- *Trees in the Coniferous forest specialize in growing in poor soils that are often sandy and dry.*
- *These forests need regular forest fires in order to clear dead branches and needles that have dropped. This helps to improve the soil of the forest*
- *Paper, pencils, turpentine and the cancer drug Taxol are products that come from the Coniferous forest*
- *Some trees found in this forest are: spruce, pine, fir, hemlock, cedar, and redwood*
- *Many animals also inhabit this forest: bald eagle, grizzly bear, lynx, red fox, moose, snowshoe hare, deer, wolf, porcupine, Spotted Owl, Pine Marten, Crossbill, pine beetles, chipmunks, squirrel, mice.*