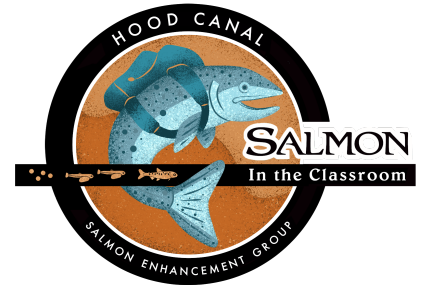


CONNECTIONS WITH TREES



Have you ever noticed how trees have their own personalities? Some are tolerant to change, some are givers by nature, and others have to be in a safe environment to bloom. These may sound like human personality traits that can accurately describe trees as well. With this activity, you will learn about your own personality traits and connect them with a tree that shares similar characteristics with you.

The enneagram test is a personality test that describes patterns in how people conceptualize the world and manage their emotions with 9 different personality types and how they relate to one another. To connect this new found information about yourself to our natural environment, 9 commonly found trees in the Pacific Northwest were studied and placed with the personality type it best represents. This will give you a better understanding of how personalities work while learning to identify and create a connection with trees you may encounter on a regular basis.

MATERIALS:

- The Enneagram Test: <https://www.truity.com/test/enneagram-personality-test>
- Tree Descriptions from Oregon State University: https://oregonstate.edu/trees/name_common.html
- Other tree information: <http://nativeplantspnw.com/>
- Printed or downloaded copies of each of the 9 trees descriptions to find
- Apps like PictureThis and PlantNet are helpful resources to make accurate identifications.

HOW TO:

1. Take the Enneagram test by clicking this link: (<https://www.truity.com/test/enneagram-personality-test>)
 - a. It will take about 10 minutes if you answer the questions with your first thought. Do not overthink these answers, your enneagram type can change based on your mood and can lead into more information than necessary for this activity.
2. Match your new found Enneagram number with the connected tree and read over the summary given.
3. Read over the other 8 enneagram and tree types so you know what trees you will be looking for
4. If you have a device to travel with you, downloading an app like PictureThis and PlantNet are helpful resources to make accurate identifications
5. Once you have completed the test, have read over your type and tree, and have all the supplies to go on a scavenger hunt with; prepare to go out for a walk to look for these trees.
6. Start with the trees you see the most of and see if they match any of the 9 and then continue down the list.
7. When you have found “your” tree, stop and observe it for a few minutes and think of how your traits are similar to its traits.





1. Spruce- Perfectionist

- Spruce needles are generally stiff and sharp; about 1" long.
 - Each spruce needle springs from a tiny, woody peg.
 - Most spruce cones have papery thin scales.
 - Most spruce bark is thin and flaky.

You and a Spruce Tree have more in common than you think. You like having a clear and organized life, inside and out like the Spruce has their tall and straight trunks. Straightforwardness is the Perfectionist's ultimate goal and Spruce trees tell it like it is with their sharp needles to let people know not to mess with them. Steadfast and diligent, Perfectionists seek to improve the state of the world through intention and reason. They have a clear sense of duty and feel obligated to serve society through willpower and perseverance. Spruce trees may not be comfortable for humans but they have a duty to provide a place of shelter for nesting, roosting, and winter cover for animals within its habitat.



2. Western Red Cedar-Giver

- Evergreen needles are borne primarily in dense clusters; current year needles are borne singly.
 - Clusters of needles arise from stout, woody pegs.
- Fruits are large, barrel-shaped cones that sit on the tops of branches.

You are a giver, just like the Western Red Cedar. In public, Givers are the people that strangers are naturally drawn to for directions or advice. Cedars have the ability to capture visitors with their vastness and possess a strong aura of approachability as well. Givers are highly attuned to the needs of others and can be seen as the ‘mother’ or ‘father’ figure of a group of friends. The Western Red Cedar was the most important tree to native people and they called it the “Tree of Life” because the decay resistant wood of these trees was used for building longhouses, totem poles, canoes, cradles, and many kinds of tools and other items during their time. At home or alone, Givers continually make an effort to keep in touch with loved ones. Whether that’s through homemade dishes, tender words, or surprise gifts—they’re attuned to others’ love languages and enjoy putting a smile on their faces.



3. Alder- Achiever

- Alternate, egg-shaped leaves with serrated or doubly serrated margins
 - Small woody cones about 1" long
- Commonly found in moist areas next to water

Whether you prefer the term achiever or pathfinder, both of these traits describe you and an Alder Tree. With refined tastes and an impressive drive to accomplish more, Achievers are socially adept conversationalists with a talent for beating deadlines and looking crazy-good while doing so. Alders may not be able to talk but they are efficient at growing fast in recently cleared land. They're poised and intuitively know what to say during any situation. Achievers can make friends with just about anyone. Alders can also make "friends" easily even though they can be considered a "weed," they are also the first to be used for ecological restoration because they adapt well and the soil below these trees can improve the fertility of the area's soil. Achievers may have top-notch Instagram feeds, a seemingly 'perfect' life, and the charm to prove it. Alders have nice smooth bark with a mixture of grey, white, and brown, and even some moss to make the perfect Instagram selfie. Alders may not have a 5 year plan but when Achievers are asked about their five-year plan or career goals, they typically have a well-thought-out mental map of where they want to be.



4. Pacific Dogwood- Individualist

- has large, showy "petals" surrounding each flower
 - branches loop between leaf clusters
 - fruits are orange to red

Just like the Pacific Dogwood; you are individualistic and distinctive with your appearance. Individualists are offbeat, they have a strong sense of self-identity and pride themselves on being unique just like the flowering tree of the Pacific Dogwood. They are often found pursuing some sort of creative outlet such as music comedy, or animation. Their ultimate goal is to accurately present their true selves to the world in order to feel real, healthy and whole. Flowering Dogwood trees are the ultimate sign of Spring as they show off their Individualist style of blooming white flowers. An Individualist's style and way of life often has notes of openness, and suggests this person is exploring their own psyche. They constantly evaluate every decision and its alignment to their personal values. When it comes to self-expression, Dogwoods and Individualists take their presentation very seriously.



5. Western Hemlock- Investigator

- Short needles, generally under 1" long.
- Some species have needles of 2 distinct sizes, while others have needles of uniform length.
 - Small, woody cones (1-3" long).
- Trees have distinctive droopy tops and branches.

Hemlock trees share many Investigator characteristics. Investigators are often stoic and detached, Hemlocks can be planted singly and thrive all on their own. Investigators are fascinated by the ever-expanding realm of unexplored ideas. If forests are left alone and allowed to grow undisturbed indefinitely, Western Hemlock would be the dominant species exploring the uncharted territory. You can be energized by spending hours of time alone, tinkering with their personal projects and research. The path to mastery in a particular area is a journey each Investigator readily embarks on. They may appear calm and collected on the surface, but when topics of interest come up in conversation, they transform into a giddy and energetic version of themselves. This sudden gear-shift may surprise those who are unaware of the Investigator's hidden passions. Western Hemlocks have their own interests and can become a topic of conversation when you observe them growing on the top of downed Douglas Fir nurse logs.



6. Oak- Loyalist

- Fruit is an acorn.
- Leaves are simple and alternate. They are most commonly lobed and deciduous, but may be unlobed and persistent.
 - Twigs have star-shaped piths.
- Buds are large and clustered at the tips of their twigs.

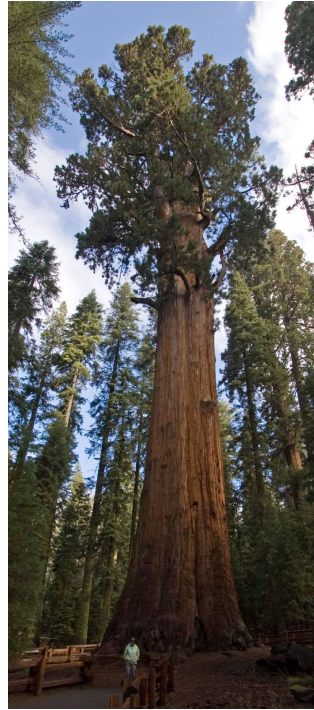
Whether you prefer the term loyalist or stabilizer, you have these traits in common with an Oak Tree. Unassuming and tolerant, Loyalists blend into the social sphere seamlessly and are always willing to support their loved ones. Oak Trees are found seamlessly placed around cities and adapt very easily. Loyalists are great at keeping secrets and take privacy very seriously. Oak trees are great to plant in yards because they grow large and create privacy with their limbs and leaves. At work, Loyalists are the employees that stick around and do overtime with ease to support the organization and keep tasks running smoothly. While Oak Trees don't have to work, they are loyal in their strength and toleration of the elements to stand tall. Loyalists actively seek reassurance for their actions and can smell potential issues from miles away. They probably have accumulated a mental compilation of troubleshooting guides for scenarios experienced in the past. Oak Trees don't really have a trouble-shooting mechanism but they are able to grow through harsh environments like concrete.



7. Maple- Enthusiast

- Leaves are simple, opposite and deciduous; palmately lobed and veined.
- Fruit is a double samara that looks like a pair of airplane propellers.
 - Wood, especially burl wood, is highly valued.

Some people may say unrestrained and some may call you an enthusiast, either way you have these traits in common with a Maple tree. Whimsical and free-spirited, Enthusiasts experience life with bright eyes and an open mind while Maple trees change and create bright colors within themselves. With an impressively wide and far-reaching collection of talents and interests, they have active imaginations that soar and shine when gifted with new and exciting opportunities. Maple trees can signify the hope of exciting opportunities when they have the opportunity to change from green to the bright reds, yellows, and oranges in the fall. At work, Enthusiasts are highly productive and get along well with others. They tend to climb the corporate ladder fairly easily and become a favorite in the lunchroom. Maple Trees tend to climb up the popularity ladder fairly easily as well. With an infinite number of topics to talk about, their natural charisma draws in even the shyest of individuals. When Enthusiasts and Maple Trees are faced with change, they strut forward with pride and boldly traverse through the unknown.



8. Sequoia- Challenger

- Needles are shaped like a double-edged sword, and occur in a flat plane.
 - They are typically about 1/2-1" long and are green on top (although sometimes with white lines) with distinct white bands below.
- Fruits are small woody cones about 1" long, made up of thick, wrinkled scales. Mature cones are brown and scales can be moved easily with finger pressure.
 - Bark is reddish-brown, thick, fibrous, and deeply furrowed.

Sequoias like to challenge the earth and seek new heights, just like you. Naturally accustomed to leadership roles, the Challenger makes their presence known and carries an aura of confidence and self-assuredness in their speech and walk. Sequoias make their presence known as well as they can reach heights of up to 275 feet. Challengers typically believe in the mantra of creating your own luck and work very hard to make things happen, no questions asked. They are ruthlessly independent and are unafraid of confrontation, which can get them into major trouble at times. Respect is earned through reason and competency, and not through age or status. Sequoias may not show it through confrontation but they are ready with their needles that look like a double-edged sword if that day were to come.



9. Douglas Fir- Peacemaker

- Features needles that are spiral, simple and roughly 1½" in length.
- Yields light brown, 3–4" cones which hang downward on the branches with distinctive 3-pointed bracts protruding from between the scales.
- Does best on a roomy site with an abundance of atmospheric moisture.
 - Grows in a pyramidal shape.
 - Makes an excellent specimen, grouping or mass.

You and a Douglas Fir make such a peaceful match with your sense of calm and need for organization. Being gentle and agreeable, Peacemakers are the skilled mediators and counsellors in a group of friends or coworkers. Douglas Firs can be like a mediator with their soft needles making a great spot under its tree to find your inner peace out in the forest. Peacemakers work hard behind the scenes in order to keep the group harmony steady and flowing. Douglas Firs are known to become "nurse logs" as they decompose and give nutrients for their fellow trees to grow from.

As children, Peacemakers knew how to get along with each classmate, making them a great addition to any group project. They can easily see the many different sides to an issue and tend not to jump to conclusions quickly, if at all. Complacent and humble, Peacemakers are stable and gentle, willing to go the extra mile to avoid rocking the boat. They're appreciative of the little things others do and the simple pleasures in life. Douglas Firs can be the symbol of appreciation as they are the tree of choice for live Christmas trees and often bring families together during the holiday season.