

Materials Needed:

- A few pinecones
 - A small branch from a coniferous tree (like pine or fir - check for safety/allergies)
 - Picture book about trees/forests (simple ones like 'A Tree is Nice' by Janice May Udry or search for 'Preschool Evergreen Books')
 - Large paper or whiteboard
 - Green crayons or markers
 - Letter 'C' card or cutout
 - Optional: Magnifying glass, brown and green playdough
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Lesson Activities:

1. Introduction: What's a Coniferous Tree? (5 mins)

Let's start our tree adventure! Show the student the coniferous branch. "Look at this branch! Does it have leaves like other trees, or something different?" Guide them to notice the needles. "These are called needles! Trees with needles are special. Many stay green all year round! We call them evergreen or coniferous trees." Introduce the word "coniferous".

2. Sensory Exploration: Needles and Cones! (10 mins)

Give the student the pinecones and the branch (if safe). "Let's touch the needles. How do they feel? (Carefully!) Now feel the pinecone. Is it smooth or bumpy?" Use the optional magnifying glass to look closely at the textures. "Coniferous trees make cones!" Let them explore freely.

3. Letter 'C' Connection (5 mins)

Show the letter 'C' card. "This is the letter C! C is for CONIFEROUS and C is for CONE!" Let's say it together: C-C-Coniferous! C-C-Cone! Trace the letter 'C' in the air or on the paper.

4. Story Time: Tree Tales (10 mins)

Read a simple picture book about trees or forests. Pause to point out any evergreen/coniferous trees in the pictures. Ask simple questions like, "What color is that tree?" or "What do you see growing on the tree?" to check listening.

5. Activity: Cone & Needle Art (10 mins)

On the large paper, draw a simple trunk. "Let's make our own coniferous tree!" Help the student use green crayons or markers to draw lots of needles coming from the trunk and branches. They can also try drawing cones or even gently gluing a real small cone (or pieces) onto the picture. If using playdough, they can make green 'needles' and brown 'cones'.

6. Simple Rhyme/Song (5 mins)

Let's learn a little rhyme! (To the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'):

Pointy needles, green all year,

Cones are dropping, oh my dear!
Coniferous tree, tall and grand,
Growing strong across the land.
Pointy needles, green all year,
Glad the forest has you here!

Sing it a couple of times, pointing to needles and cones (real or drawn).

7. Wrap-up (2 mins)

"Wow! We learned so much about coniferous trees today! What do they have instead of flat leaves? (Needles!) And what do they grow? (Cones!) And what letter does Coniferous and Cone start with? (C!)"
Give lots of praise for their great exploring.