

In a Strange Land- Trees

Early naturalist explorers journeyed to the American shores with the monumental task of describing and making order of plant and animal species previously unknown to them. There were no Peterson's or Sibley guides to which they could refer. They came with limited sketches and pressed specimen from their home country, and attempted to describe new species they discovered in the context of the species they knew.

You are now going to be one of those early explorers. The following pages are the few sketches and notes that you managed to carry with you into the wilds of the South Carolina coastal forest when you arrived after a long, perilous sea voyage from your home country. Choose a tree in the wilds of your yard or a nearby area, or use a photograph of a tree that shows enough detail to describe its features. Referencing *only the sketches below*, describe how the species you have 'discovered' is similar to or different from one or more of the species illustrated. In the box provided on the last page, sketch and describe the shape and arrangement of the leaves and branches, and note any defining characteristics of your discovery. You and fellow explorer naturalists will need good notes as you continue your journey into the uncharted wilderness.

Broad leafed trees



Quercus stellata

Variable leaves, cross-shaped in outline. Crown with large, crooked, gnarled branches. Common in dry woodlands.



Quercus michauxii

Simple, alternate leaves turn a rich crimson color in the fall. Blades long, usually wider above the middle. Tree is tall with a compact rounded crown.

Quercus coccinea

Long, narrow pointed leaves. Often dead branches persist on the trunk



Nyssa aquatica

Leaf oblong with wedge shaped base. Trunks often have swollen bases.

Fagus grandifolia

Smooth, light grey bark. Leaves simple and alternate with bluntly serrate margins.



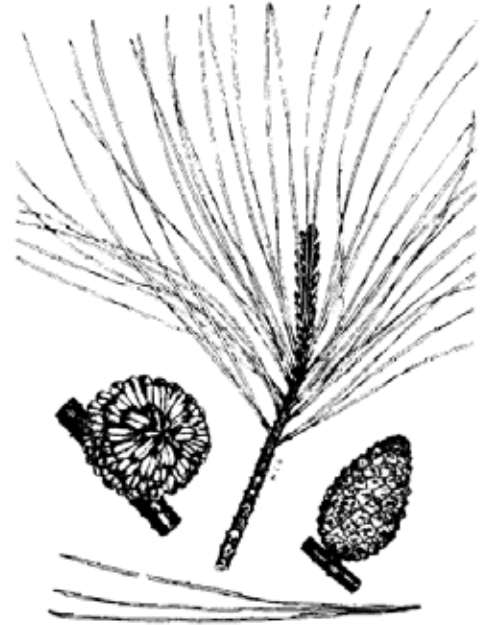
Salix nigra

Usually found along lakes and streams. Shrubby tree with long, narrow alternate leaves.

Species of the genus *Pinus*

Pinus virginiana

Stiff, gray-green needles 1½ to 3 inches long in bundles of 2, often twisted. Cones with sharp prickles. Old, open cones remain on the branches for several years. Capable of growing on eroded and poorly drained sites.



Pinus serotina

Grows on low, wet flats, usually in lowlands. The short, broad, top-shaped cones persist unopened on the branches for years.



Pinus strobus

Soft, flexible, bluish-green needles. 5 needles in a cluster.



Pinus echinata

Needles in clusters of 2's, rarely 3's or 4's. The abundant cones are among the smallest of those of our southern pines— 1½ to 2½ inches long, generally clustered, often remain on the twigs for 3 or 4 years.



Acer negundo

Olive green twigs have a powdery coating that can be rubbed off. 3 to 5 leaflets that are wide and coarsely toothed.



Fraxinus americana

Long, straight trunk. Compound leaves with usually 7 leaflets.

Newly Discovered Tree

