Tree Detective Challenge

How to ID a Tree using our Tree Keys

Using both the Deciduous Tree Key and the Coniferous Tree Key, solve the mysteries on the next page by following the keys and answering these questions! (Tip: zoom in on the page to see the photos more clearly.)

Question 1: Is the tree deciduous or coniferous?

Deciduous – A tree or shrub that sheds its leaves annually.
Coniferous – Consists mainly of evergreen trees or shrubs (ones that never lose their leaves) and produce fruit in the form of cones.

If it’s a deciduous tree:
Question 2: Are the buds and branching alternate or opposite?
Question 3: What is the texture of the bark?
Question 4: What is the colour or special feature of the bark?

If it’s a coniferous tree:
Question 2: Does it have scales or needles?
Question 3: If the needles are in bundles (joined together where they meet the twig), how many needles are in a bundle?
Question 4: If it has single needles, how long are the single needles (in cm)?
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Hey Tree Detectives, these five trees have lost their species names. Solve the mysteries and give these trees back their names!

Clue: Trees 1-3 are all deciduous with alternate buds / branching.

Clue: The needles on tree 4 are 0.5-1 cm long.