



WEEKLY LESSON PLANS • K-2

December

Winter Collection

THIS MONTH

Evergreens & Pinecones • Light & Shadow
Celebrations Around the World • Bells & Music

Reading, writing & math every day • 4 weeks • 20 school days



WEEK 1

Evergreens & Pinecones

BOOK *Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree* by Robert Barry

POEM "O Christmas Tree" (traditional, first verse)

Heart of the week: *Steadiness*. Evergreens stay green through the coldest, darkest days. We can be steady too, even when things are hard.

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
MORNING TIME	Read Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree + start the poem	Recite the poem + reread	Recite the poem + reread	Recite the poem + reread	Recite the poem — celebrate it
COPYWORK	"The tree was too tall."	"Evergreens stay green all year."	"The pinecone closed up."	"Pine needles grow in bunches."	"I can be steady. + illustrate + sign"
TODAY'S EXTRA	Poetry	World: evergreen forests	Science: weather-watching pinecone	Art: drawing an evergreen branch	Nature: pinecone bird feeder

Plus every day: Reading (your own program, ~15 min) · Math (your own program, ~20 min) · a read-aloud in the afternoon.

Gather once: *Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree* (library) · 3–4 pinecones · a bowl of water · paper towels · a small evergreen branch (or a sprig from a wreath) and a leaf from a non-evergreen tree for comparing · paper, pencil, colored pencils · string, birdseed, and shortening or sunflower-seed butter (for Friday's feeder) · a globe or map

Evergreens & Pinecones

This week's poem

*O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches!
Not only green when summer's here,
But in the coldest winter.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches!*

Learn about two lines a day; recite together on Friday.

Copywork, day by day

All copywork goes in the **journal**. **1st & 2nd**: write name + date at the top first. Teach it **I do** → **we do** → **you do** — write the line yourself, do one together, then let them go on their own. Level it: **K** a word or two • **1st** the line • **2nd** the line, then a sentence of their own.

Mon — The tree was too tall.

Tue — Evergreens stay green all year.

Wed — The pinecone closed up.

Thu — Pine needles grow in bunches.

Fri — I can be steady. + illustrate + sign

The daily extras

MON Poetry & Picture Study — 25 min

Reread the poem. Then look at the pictures in *Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree*. The treetop gets smaller and smaller as it's passed along. *Line up the trees from biggest to smallest, page by page. Who ends up with the tiniest one?*

Ready for more? Draw the trees in order, from biggest to smallest, like steps going down.

Teach it: I do — sing or say the first two lines slowly. **We do** — sing them together, twice. **You do** — they sing the first two lines on their own.

TUE Explore the World — Evergreen Forests — 25 min

Pull out the globe.

- **The great northern forests**: Huge evergreen forests stretch across **Canada, Alaska, Scandinavia, and Russia**. Find them near the top of the globe.
- **The tallest trees on Earth** are **coast redwoods**, evergreens that grow along the coast of **California**. Some are taller than a 30-story building!
- **Decorated evergreen trees** became a winter tradition in **Germany** hundreds of years ago and spread around the world.
- Find where *you* live. Do evergreens grow near you?

Mrs. A's note: Bring a sprig of evergreen inside and let them smell it. Smell is a wonderful way to remember a lesson.

Teach it: I do — find Canada on the globe and trace the northern forests. **We do** — find California's redwoods together. **You do** — they find where they live and say if evergreens grow there.