GIANT TREES
Tallest and Largest Living Trees

The tallest tree in the world is the Hyperion Tree. It is a coastal redwood and it is a little more than 379 feet tall. That's taller than the Statue of Liberty (305 feet tall).

The largest tree in the world is the General Sherman. It is a giant sequoia and measures in volume 52,508 cubic feet. A cubic foot is a cube one foot wide by one foot tall by one foot deep.

Top Branches
Giant sequoias usually have branches near their tops because the lower branches are shaded from the sun and fall away as the tree grows.

Leaves
Giant sequoia leaves are blue-green in color.

Bark Thickness
The reddish-brown bark of a giant sequoia can grow to more than 12 inches (30 cm) thick.

Big Tree, Tiny Cones
The giant sequoia is a conifer, which means that it produces cones that hold its seed. At 3.5 inches (9 cm) long, the cones are tiny compared to the tree.

A large tree can have about 11,000 cones at any given time. A mature giant sequoia can release 300,000 to 400,000 seeds in one year.

Cone sometimes stay on the tree for 8 to 12 years before dropping. Each cone has an average of 230 seeds.

The seeds in each cone have wing-like edges which help them travel up to 600 feet from their parent tree.
The biggest tree is 642 tons, about the weight of 107 elephants.

The widest tree is 31.4 feet wide. The length of two small cars.

The tallest living giant sequoia is 316 feet. As tall as a 31-story building.

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**Home of Giant Trees**

Write down the letters along the correct path through the maze to find out in which state both the world’s tallest trees (coastal redwoods) and largest trees (giant sequoias) grow.

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**Large or Tall?**

Some giant sequoias are tall, but they are not the tallest trees in the world. The reason they are the largest trees in the world is because when you combine their *height*, *width* and estimated *weight*, they are the most massive.
A Long Time to Stand

Giant sequoias can live to a very old age. Some are more than 3,500 years old. The wood is rich in chemicals that keep away insect pests and prevent rotting. The thick bark does not burn easily and helps to protect the tree from fire.

Nature Walk Bingo

Head outdoors with family and friends and take a walk around the neighborhood. On this walk, each of you take one of the cards below and cross out the items as you see them. The first one to get three in a row yells, “Bingo!”

Small to LARGE

Look through the newspaper for pictures of three things—one that is big, one that is bigger and one that is the biggest. Cut these out and label them big, bigger and biggest.

EXTRA CHALLENGE: Repeat this activity to show the following: Happy, happier and happiest—Funny, funnier and funniest—Little, littler and littlest

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.
General Sherman Tree is a Record Breaker!
The General Sherman Tree is not only the largest living tree, it is the largest living thing, by volume, on the planet. Use the code to find out more about it.

The tree is estimated to be □ □ □ □ years old.

It weighs □ □ □ □ tons. It’s □ □ □ □ feet (83m) tall.

The distance around the bottom of the tree is □ □ □ □ feet (31m).

It has branches that are almost □ feet (2.1m) in diameter.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

**VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

**MATURE**
The adjective mature means having completed natural development.

The mature redwood was over 200 feet tall.

Try to use the word mature in a sentence today when talking with friends and family members.

Which tree produces fruit that tastes like chicken?

**ANSWER: Poultrie!**
Write On! Why trees?

Do people really need trees? Write an opinion piece expressing your opinion about this.

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Superlatives are Super!

A superlative is an adjective that describes a noun in an extreme way. For example, the largest, the smallest, the funniest. Circle all of the superlatives on these Kid Scoop activity pages. How many can you find in today’s newspaper?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.
Kid Scoop Jumbo Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally. Then see how many of these words you can find in today’s newspaper.

BRANCHES
SEQUOIA
CONIFER
RELEASE
GENERAL
REDWOOD
GIANT
TREES
CONES
SEEDS
YEARS
TALL
BARK
GROW
BIG