



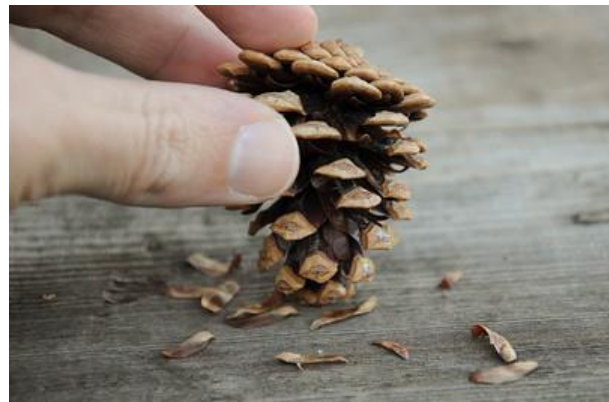
AN ACORN SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY!

Grow you own evergreen tree from seeds (hidden in pine cones)!

To start growing pine trees from seed, gather large brown (or slightly green) cones in fall. The cones should be closed; if open, they probably have already released their seeds. Trees that have a lot of cones are more likely to have viable seeds. Lay the cones in an open box at room temperature. When dry, the cones will open and release their seeds. If they don't open, place the box in a hot spot (104 to 113 degrees Fahrenheit) until they do. Use tweezers to remove any remaining seeds inside the cones.

To improve odds of germination, stratify the seeds: Mix them with moist peat or sand, place them in a clear plastic bag, and refrigerate them for three to seven weeks. (If the seeds germinate in the refrigerator, sow them immediately.) Sow the seeds in 3-inch pots, and provide bottom heat of about 60 degrees. Seedlings can be transplanted outdoors into larger pots in spring, when they're about 2 inches tall (six to eight weeks after they germinate).

From <http://www.motherearthnews.com>



*****Tip: Take pictures of each step! From freshly picking pine cones, drying them, seed discovery, planting, and sprouting! Send them to Ranger Marcy at marcy@tlgv.org so she can show off your good work! ***Remember, not every seed will grow, so don't give up! Try it each year!***