



## *Tree Stumpers!*

# MEMORY GAME

### Included in this packet:

- Instructions and materials list
- 21 tree ID cue cards
- Tree descriptions list (no pictures)
- 21 *Stumpers* memory cards

### LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

*Tree Stumpers Memory Game* is designed for players of all ages. The object of the game is to help volunteers identify common native tree species of the Potomac River watershed by their leaf and seed characteristics. This exercise will aid their efforts in collecting seeds for *Growing Native*. The species chosen for the game are from the desired tree species list found on the *Growing Native* website, [www.growingnative.org](http://www.growingnative.org).

More information on tree identification is found on our website and in the “Resources” section of this packet. Print out **two copies** of the *Tree Stumpers Memory Game* cards (Stumpers cards), in color and double-sided, if possible. Cut the Stumpers cards along their borders, and laminate if desired. The 21 tree ID cue cards and tree descriptions list are the same as those used in *Tree Stumpers Bingo* (which can be downloaded from [www.growingnative.org](http://www.growingnative.org)). Print out one copy of the tree ID cue cards (print in color, single-sided) and several copies of the tree description list (printing in black & white is fine). These same cue cards and tree description lists can be used as resources for your volunteers when they collect seeds for a *Growing Native* collection event!

Below you will find instructions for playing *Tree Stumpers Memory Game*.

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**Before you begin play:**

- Photocopy the included tree descriptions list (without pictures) and distribute to groups of players. Review this list with the players and go over any unfamiliar vocabulary terms used in tree identification.
- You may wish to provide examples of seeds and leaves from your local area to help players recognize the connection between the pictures on the Stumpers cards and the tree species they represent. They can then use these as study aids. In addition, you can ask volunteers to go outside and try to identify trees in their locality. There are also many other tree identification books and web sites that you can use as additional resources, which you can find at the end of this document.
- Have the players match the written descriptions on the tree descriptions list with the photos on the Stumpers cards and study how to identify the various tree species. Use the tree ID cue cards as a reference for matching descriptions with pictures.
- Once volunteers show a basic familiarity with the species and their pictures, begin play!

***Tree Stumpers Memory Game:***

- The game is best played with 2–5 players.
- Spread out all the Stumpers cards (there should be 42), logo side up, on a table or other flat playing surface. Players should arrange themselves in a circle around the cards, so they can easily reach all the cards.
- Players take turns trying to flip over and match pairs of Stumpers cards. On each turn, a player may flip over only two cards—either simultaneously or one at a time. Only two cards at a time can be showing face up.
- If the tree species on the two cards match, the player collects and keeps those two cards in a “points” pile, and takes another turn. The player must stop taking turns when he or she fails to produce a match.
- Play continues until all the Stumpers cards have been gathered into the players’ points piles.
- At the end of the game, the player with the most pairs in his or her points pile wins!

## **Resources/Cue card description citations:**

- <http://www.oplin.org/tree/index.html>  
Clear and easy-to-use online leaf identification key (“dichotomous key”) from the Ohio Public Library Information Net. It describes many trees commonly found in temperate North America, and is a great tool to use for leaf identification practice.
  - How to use: have volunteers gather leaves from their backyards or the Bingo site. They then step through the leaf key, answering yes/no questions about the shape and characteristics of their leaf, finally narrowing it down to the species or genera level. This is how most hard-copy field guides work, and can be used as an online introduction to pocket field guides that students can use anywhere, such as those by Peterson or the Audubon Society.
- [http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Backyard/Supplemental\\_Resources.cfm#TreeID](http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Backyard/Supplemental_Resources.cfm#TreeID)  
Contains a wealth of links on tree information in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, including a number of online keys. Several of the forestry/natural resource departments also have pamphlet-style keys available for mail order at \$1 or so per copy.
- <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/DENDRO/DENDROLOGY/IDIT.HTM>  
Virginia Tech online dichotomous key.
- <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/FORESTRY/COMMONTR/INDEX.ASPX>  
Common trees of Pennsylvania, by name. Online or PDF (printer-friendly) formats available.
- <http://www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/>  
Invasive species of the mid-Atlantic, described by common name and with detailed photographs.