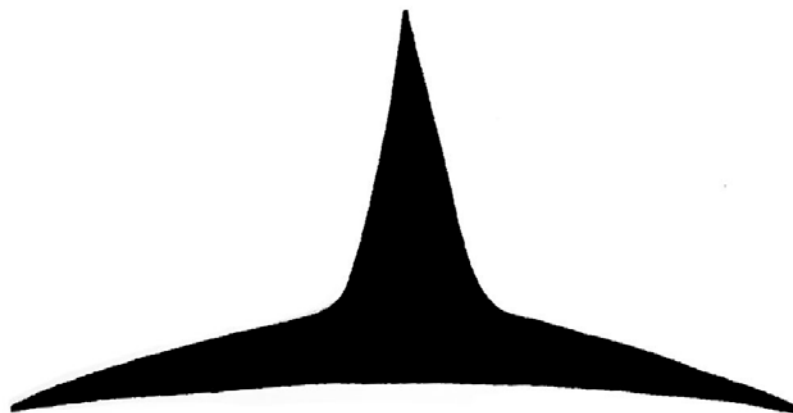


The Forest Floor

New Life and Decay



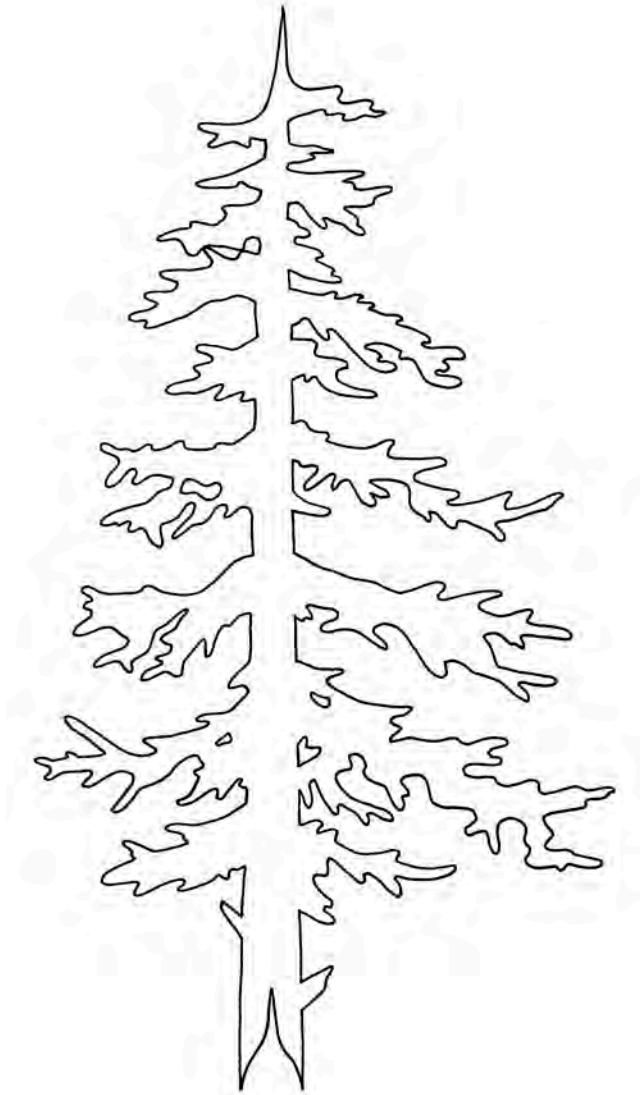
A Kwiakah-led initiative to support early childhood education.



The Kwiakah Nation gratefully
acknowledges the financial support of the
BC Aboriginal Childcare Society.

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To all LigwíꞤdax̱w children, our future stewards.





The Forest Floor



New Life and Decay

Written by Melanie Chickite and Deidre Cullon

Art by Jessica Chickite

Photography by Deidre Cullon and Len Apedaile

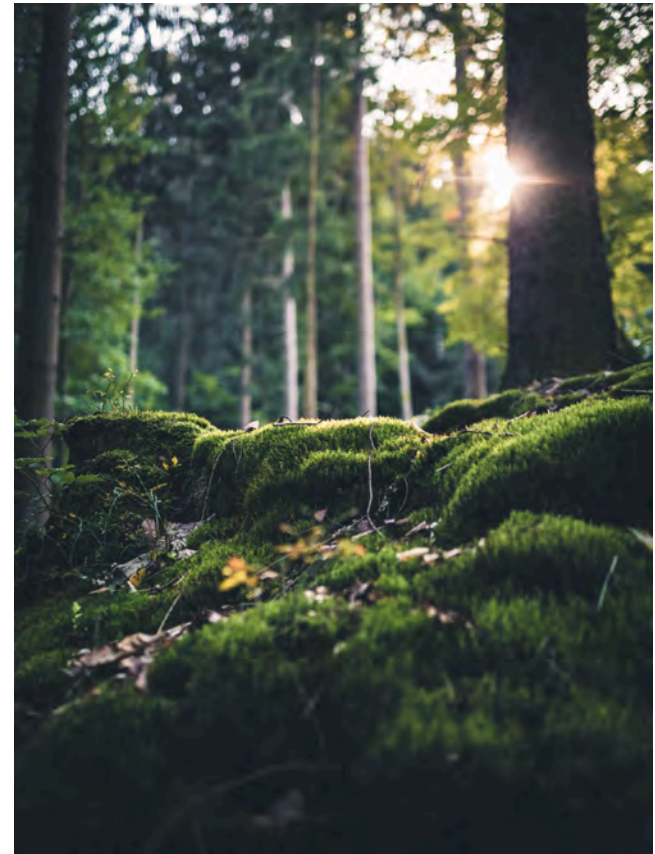
Translation Support by Ġwixsisēlas (Emily Aitken)





The Forest Floor

Imagine you are in the forest lying on your tummy. What do you see?



Moss

Pələms

Moss thrives in areas where other plants struggle. Moss doesn't have roots or seeds, but has rhizoids, small hair-like legs that help anchor the moss to the ground.



Leaves

Mañemut (dead leaves)

Mañema (living leaves)

Leaves fall to the ground. They decompose and add nutrients to the soil that is used by plants to grow a healthy forest.



Needles and Branches

Čapaǰmәniǰ^w (cedar needles)

Needles and branches on the forest floor help to keep the soil moist. These are also an important fuel for forest fires, which are important for a healthy forest.





Slugs and Snails



Q̣ʷačəq (slug and snail)

Slugs are decomposers, recycling leaves and organic matter. They are slimey which helps them move along the forest floor.



Mushrooms



In the forest mushrooms are decomposers. They break down dead, organic matter and return vital nutrients to the soil. Remember mushrooms can be poisonous or make you sick, so please don't touch them.



Scat and Owl

Pellets

Mənak (excrement)

You might find scat (animal poop) on the forest floor. Or even owl pellets (the indigestible parts of an owl's meal). Bacteria and fungi break scat and owl pellets down and they become part of the soil.





Feather

Ćəlćəlċ

When birds lose a feather, it falls to the forest floor. Bacteria decompose the feather, adding nutrients to the soil.

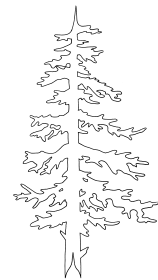


Forest Flowers

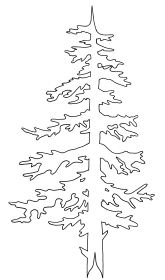


Plawas (flowers)

Forest flowers are important to bees and other insects. Their nectar is food for them. These insects carry powder called pollen between plants, which helps the plants make seeds, always keeping the forest growing.

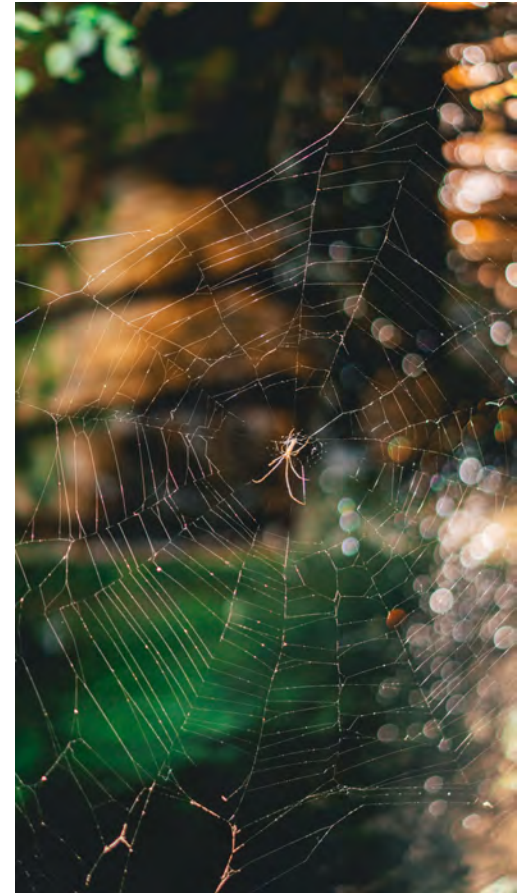


Seedlings



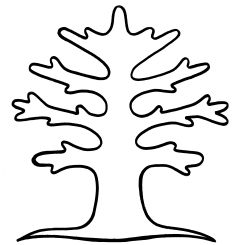
Dadəx^wmid^zəm
(young cedar trees)

Seedlings grow from seeds in the forest.
With water, correct temperatures and
nutrients from the soil, they can grow
into forest plants and trees.



Spiders

Yayaqit̓inēḡa



Spiders help control insects in the forest. They also make beautiful webs to catch their prey.



Frost

Gəwis

8chəf [eS fZ]˘ ˘SkWlaXUWf Xd e
 i ZWi SfW[˘ fZW[d˘S˘ Vea˘ S
 Xal W egdSUW







The Forest Floor

Imagine you are in the forest
lying on your tummy. What do
you see? Why is the forest floor
so important for a healthy
forest?

