

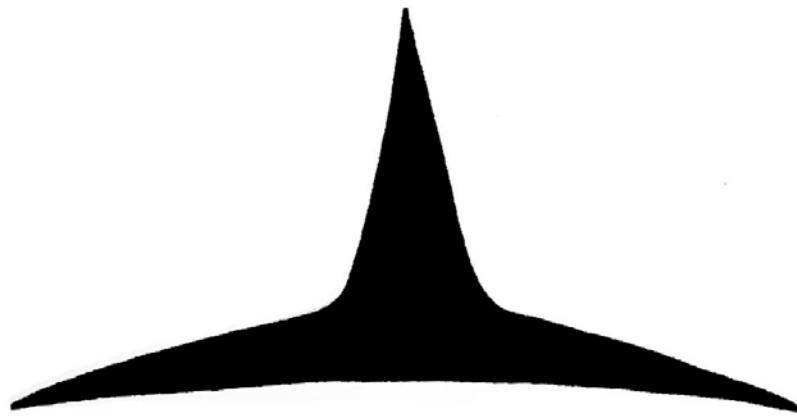


# *The Forest Floor*

New Life and Decay



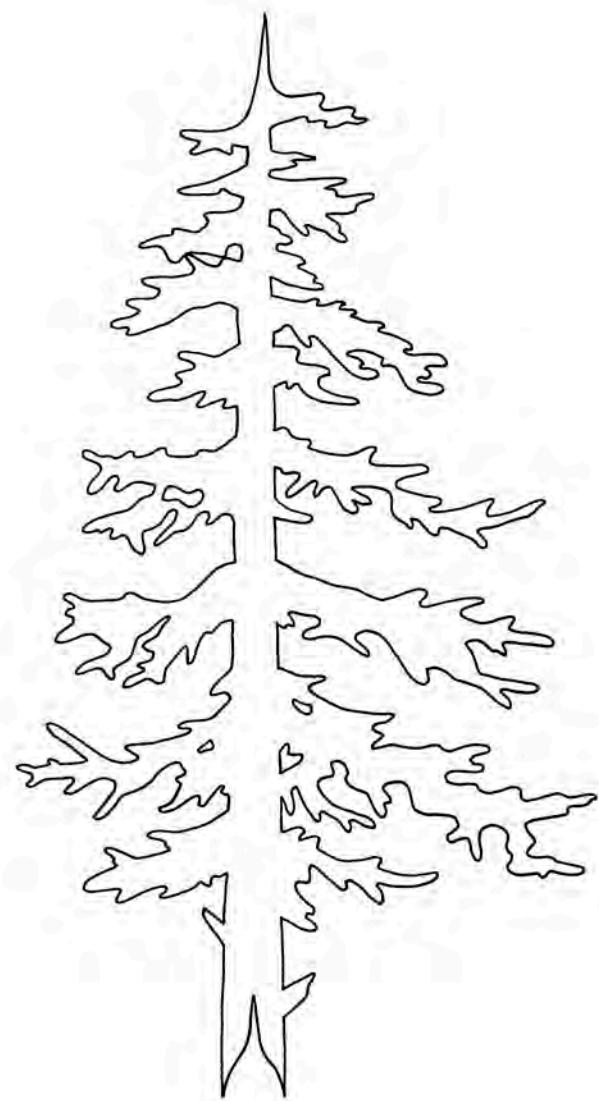
A Kwiakah-led initiative to support early childhood education.

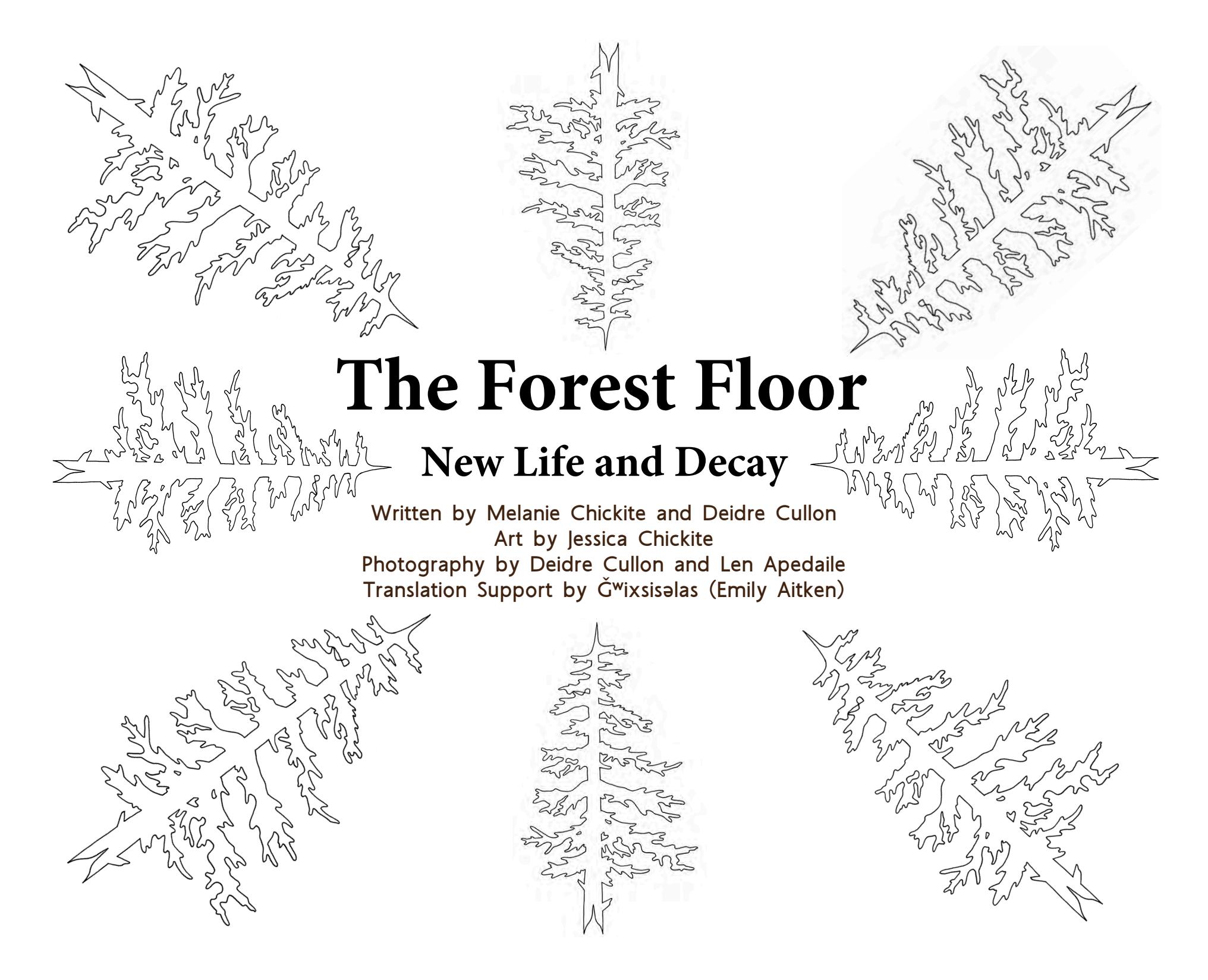


The Kwiakah Nation gratefully  
acknowledges the financial support of the  
BC Aboriginal Childcare Society.

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To all Ligʷitdaxʷ children, our future stewards.





# The Forest Floor

## New Life and Decay

Written by Melanie Chickite and Deidre Cullon

Art by Jessica Chickite

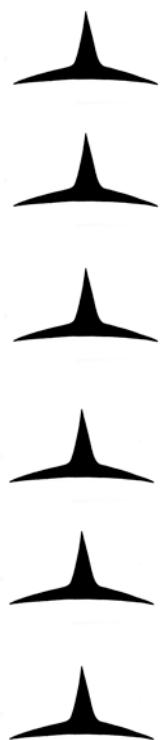
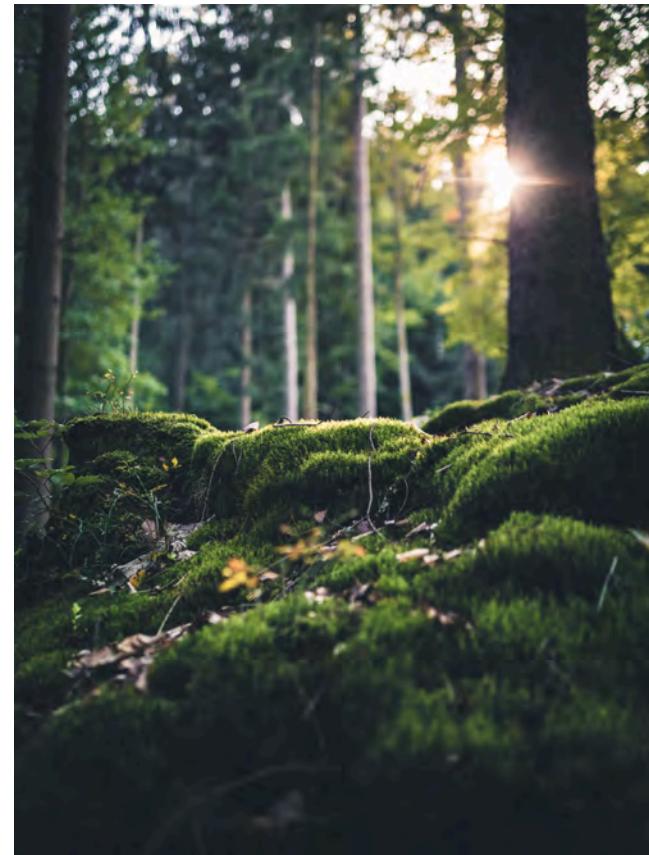
Photography by Deidre Cullon and Len Apedaile

Translation Support by Čwixsisəlas (Emily Aitken)



# *The Forest Floor*

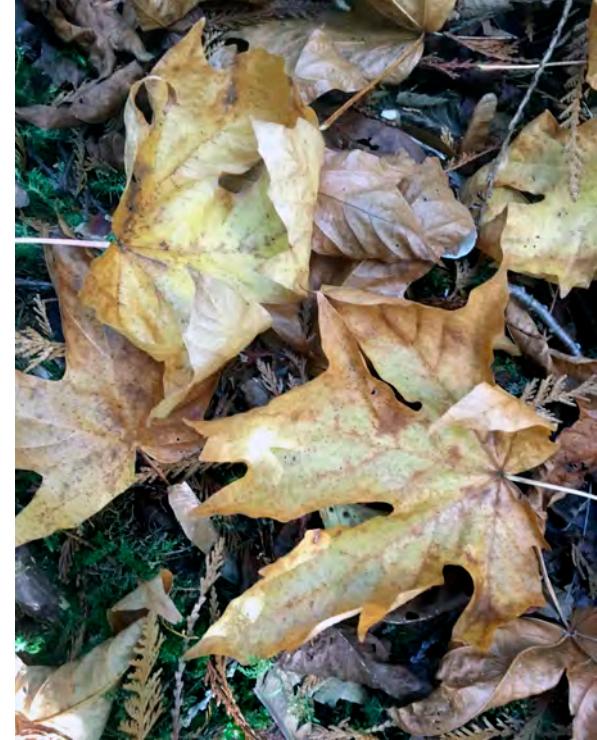
Imagine you are in the forest lying on your tummy. What do you see?



# Moss

Μοσσ

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

Mā'memut (dead leaves)  
Mā'mema (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*

Ćapačməničʷ (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.





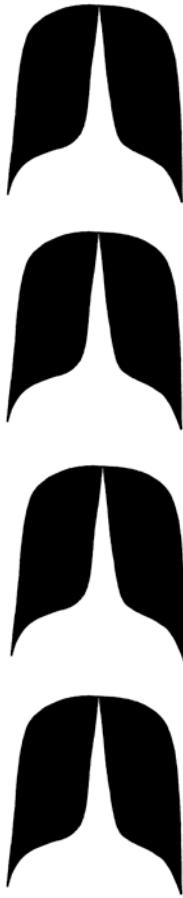
# *Slugs and Snails*



Ḱʷačəq (slug and snail)

Slugs are decomposers, recycling leaves and organic matter. They are slimy 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*

Čəlcəlk

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



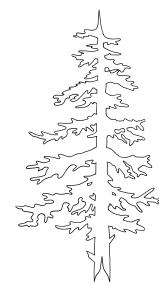
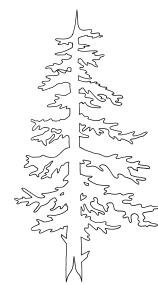
# Forest Flowers



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



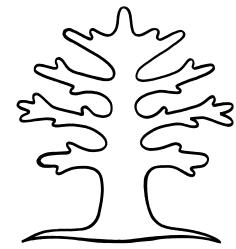
Dadəxʷmidzəm  
(young cedar trees)

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*

Yayaqitinēga



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



*Frost*

Gewis

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i ZWi SfW[` fZWS[d'S` Vea` S  
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## *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?

