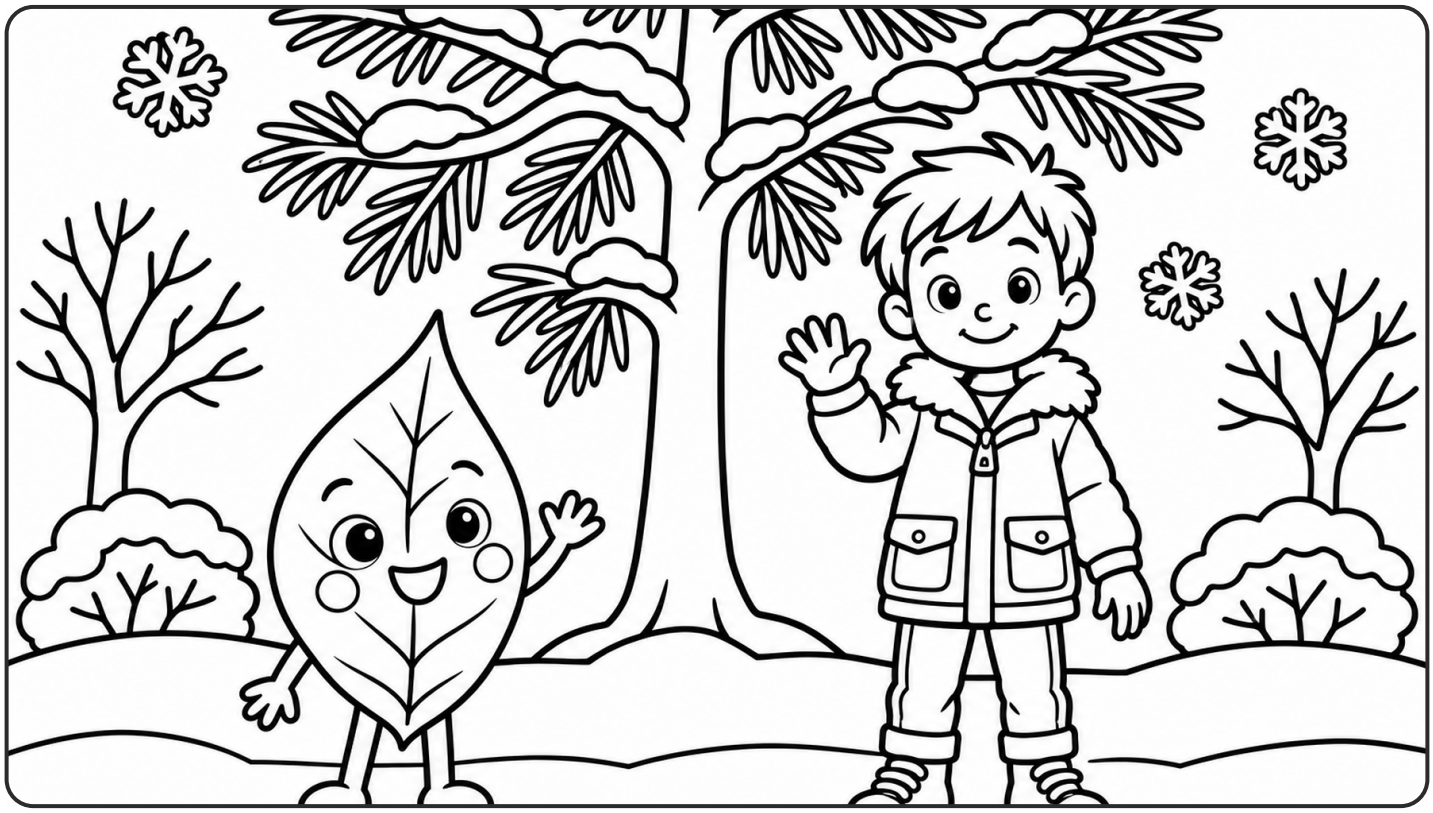
Why do pine trees stay green in winter?

Look, snow! Why do pine trees stay green in winter?



Why?

1. **Pine needles are leaves.**
   Look closely at a pine branch. Every thin green needle is a leaf. It uses sunlight to make food for the tree.
2. **Needles are made for winter.**
   Each needle is thin, so there is only a little bit of it to lose water from. And it has a waxy coat, a bit like lip balm, that keeps the water inside.
3. **One needle stays for years.**
   A pine needle does not fall off every fall. It stays on the tree for years. When needles get old, they turn yellow and drop, a few at a time. The newer needles are still green, so the tree always looks green.

Color Leafy too!



Try it! Look at one needle

You need: a grown-up and a pine tree

1. With a grown-up, find a pine tree.
2. Look closely at one needle. Is it thin and smooth?
3. Can you find old brown needles on the ground?

What happened? Old needles drop a few at a time, and the newer needles are still green.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/pinetree

scan with a grown-up