

Single Leaf Pinyon Pine

(Pinus Monophylla)



Flora
Fauna



How to Identify:

- Trees are 20-40 feet tall with rounded to flat-topped crowns and many upswept branches
- The single leaf is cylindrical, bluish-gray in color and generally 1 to 2 inches in length
- Cones produce ½ inch-long edible seeds, called pinyon or pine nuts

City of Rocks National Reserve is home to the Idaho State Champion largest singleleaf pinyon pine!

Habitat:

- In the Great Basin, the singleleaf pinyon is often found with Utah juniper, sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and curl-leaf mountain mahogany, making up pinyon-juniper woodlands.
- The northernmost range of the singleleaf pinyon extends into City of Rocks National Reserve and Castle Rocks State Park in southern Idaho.

Explore Idaho
with Scout the Fox!

Scout



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More Fun Facts!

- The singleleaf pinyon is the world's only one-needled pine tree.
- Early settlers logged pinyon for wood, fuel for heating and cooking, and to power steam engines and silver smelters.
- Pinyon nut is a very nutritious food source and American Indian communities across California, the Southwest, and Great Basin have harvested the nuts for thousands of years and continue to do so today.

COLOR ME



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Help Protect the Pinyon Pine

- Because the range of these trees is limited in Idaho, do not harvest the singleleaf pinyon pine for Christmas trees.
- When camping, be sure to put out a fire completely. You should use water and dirt to put the fire out, and never leave a campfire until it is cool to the touch. An unattended fire could get out of control fast and harm the pinyon pine, as well as other plants and animals!

ACTIVITY TIME

1. Research pinyon-juniper woodlands, then draw 3 animals that live in the same habitat as the pinyon pine.

Question 2 on the next page!



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2. Seeds of the singleleaf pinyon are wingless, which means the wind does not help them disperse as it would with winged seeds (think of maple seeds!). Instead, the pinyon pine relies on the help of animals. Can you identify vertebrate species that might eat the seeds and help disperse the pine nuts for new trees to grow?

VOCABULARY

- **Range:** the region throughout which an organism or ecological community naturally lives or occurs
- **Evergreen:** having leaves that stay green throughout the year
- **Vertebrate:** animals with a backbone, such as fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals, including humans
- **Great Basin:** the geographic region between the Sierra Nevada and Wasatch Mountains that includes most of Nevada and parts of Utah, California, Oregon, and Idaho

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