Facts for discussion:
• Cold temperatures are dehydrating (think of ‘freeze-dried’ and the drying effects of refrigeration).
• Tropical forests, which don’t face cold winters, have virtually no deciduous plants, while temperate forest usually have a mix of deciduous and evergreen plants.

Model #1: Deciduous Leaf
• Spread out a single sheet of moistened paper towel.
• Compare moistened paper towel to a bigleaf maple leaf and other similar deciduous leaves.
• Ask students to describe the characteristics they notice about these leaves (flat, thin, tear easily, change color, fall off tree, dull, shiny, hairy, etc). Compare these descriptions to the model.

Model #2: Coniferous Evergreen Leaf
• Roll a single sheet of moistened paper towel into a tight roll. This could be modified to include a sheet of waxed paper.
• Compare the tightly rolled paper towel to Douglas fir and other coniferous evergreen leaves that are needle shaped.
• Ask students to compare characteristics: leaves are thick, often leathery, and conical or needlelike in shape, harder to tear than Model #1, usually shiny, sometimes very shiny, with a waxy outer layer.

Model #3: Broadleaf Evergreen Leaf
• Lay a single sheet of moistened paper towel between two sheets of waxed paper.
• Compare to a broadleaf evergreen leaf and ask students to compare characteristics: leaves are thick, often leathery, harder to tear than deciduous, usually shiny, sometimes very shiny, often curled or ridged, with a waxy outer layer.