The Forest That Stayed Green

A story about evergreen trees

Aria and Mateo loved asking questions.

One chilly morning, they went on a nature walk with Ms. Lin.

The forest was full of tall trees that stayed green, even though the air was cold.

‘Why don’t these trees lose all their leaves like the others?’ Aria asked.

Ms. Lin smiled. ‘Because these are evergreen trees,’ she said. ‘They stay green through all the seasons.’



Science Idea

Evergreen trees keep their leaves for many years, so they stay green all year long.

Why Do They Stay Green?

Aria and Mateo followed Ms. Lin along the trail.

Some trees nearby were bare, but the pine trees were still green.

Aria touched a bundle of soft needles.

‘These trees do not drop all their leaves at once,’ Ms. Lin explained.

‘Evergreen trees keep many of their leaves for several years.’

Mateo looked at the brown leafless trees beside them.

‘So evergreen means always green?’ he asked.

‘Almost,’ Ms. Lin said. ‘They stay green through every season, even in winter.’



Science Idea

Evergreen trees keep their leaves longer than many other trees, so forests can stay green even when the weather turns cold.

Science Fables

Meet Pine, Spruce, and Fir

Soon they stopped beside three different evergreens.

Ms. Lin held up a pine branch first.

‘Pine trees often have long needles that grow in little bundles,’ she said.

Next she showed them a spruce branch. ‘Spruce needles are shorter and sharper, and their cones usually hang down.’

Then she pointed to a fir tree. ‘Fir needles are flatter and softer, and its cones grow upright like candles.’

Aria and Mateo sketched the branches in their notebooks.



Science Idea

Pine, spruce, and fir are all evergreen trees, but their needles and cones look different.

Cedar and Redwood Giants

Farther along the trail, Ms. Lin showed them a cedar.

Its leaves looked more like tiny green scales than long needles.

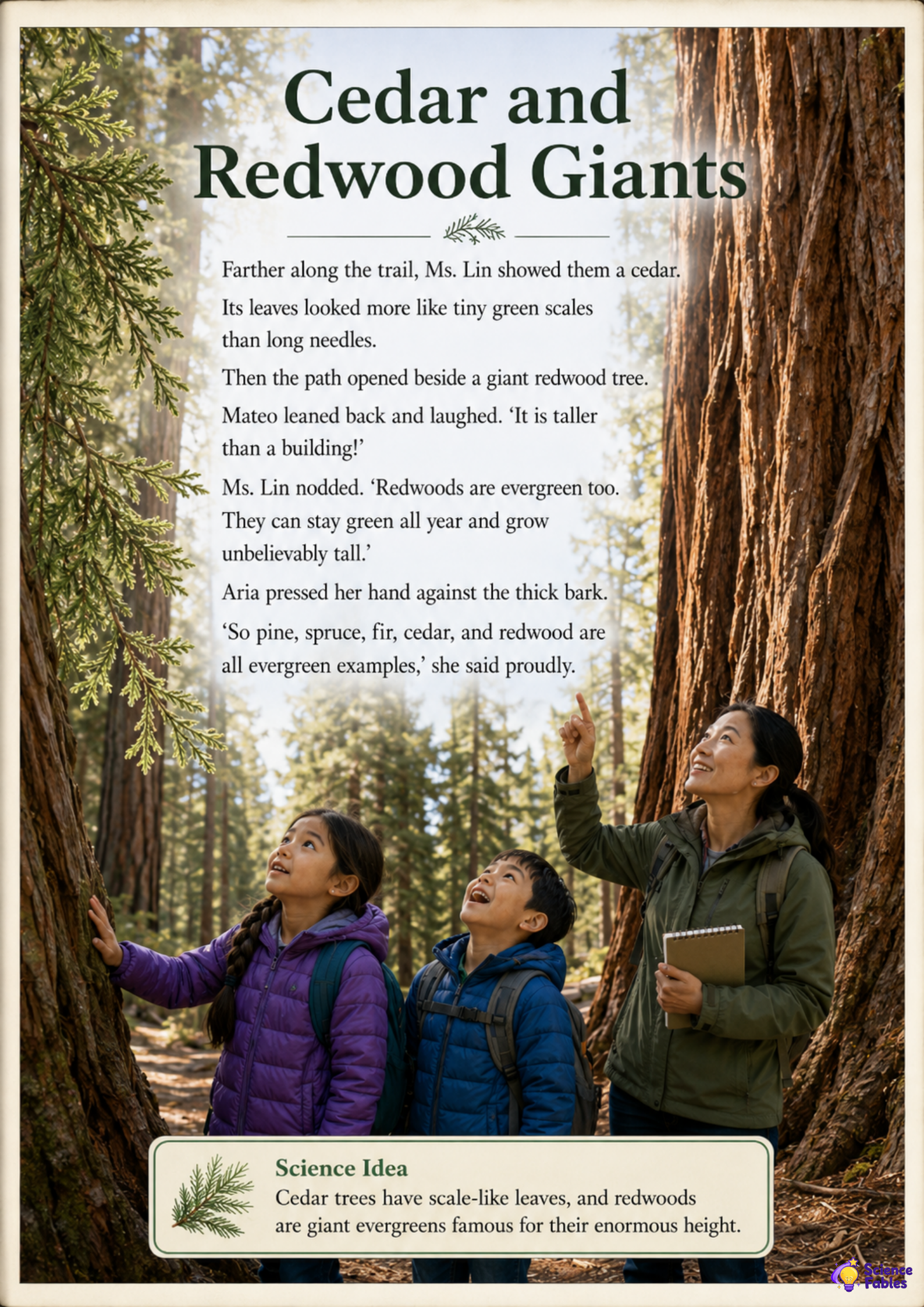
Then the path opened beside a giant redwood tree.

Mateo leaned back and laughed. ‘It is taller than a building!’

Ms. Lin nodded. ‘Redwoods are evergreen too. They can stay green all year and grow unbelievably tall.’

Aria pressed her hand against the thick bark.

‘So pine, spruce, fir, cedar, and redwood are all evergreen examples,’ she said proudly.



Science Idea

Cedar trees have scale-like leaves, and redwoods are giant evergreens famous for their enormous height.

Built for Tough Weather

A chilly wind rushed through the forest.

Aria noticed that the evergreen needles were narrow and strong.

Ms. Lin picked up one fallen needle and rolled it between her fingers.

'Evergreen leaves are shaped to save water,' she explained.

'Many have a waxy coating too, which helps them handle cold winters or dry summers.'

Mateo compared one needle to a wide leaf on the ground.

'So these trees are built for tough weather,' he said.

Ms. Lin smiled. 'That is called an adaptation.'





Science Idea

Needles are small, strong leaves. Their shape and waxy surface help many evergreen trees survive cold or dry weather.

Science Fables

The Forest Stayed Green

On the way back, Aria and Mateo looked at the forest with new eyes.

They could name pine, spruce, fir, cedar, and redwood.

They knew why the trees stayed green, even when other trees were bare.

At the trailhead, Aria wrote one last note: 'Evergreens are ready for every season.'

Mateo drew a cone beside her words.

Ms. Lin said, 'The more you look at nature, the more stories it tells.'

The children smiled and looked back at the shining green forest.



Science Element

Evergreen trees are trees that stay green all year because they keep their leaves for many years. Many evergreens have needles or scale-like leaves that help save water. Examples include pine, spruce, fir, cedar, and redwood.