

This is a **dichotomas key** for 10 species of trees found in Connecticut. At every step you choose between two characteristics that your tree might have ("di" means 2). Eventually, your choices lead you to an identification! This won't work on just any tree, only the 10 that it is made for. There are keys as big as a whole book that can help you identify random trees outside in the forest or your back yard.

Instructions: Look at a sample of a tree from the bottom row, or if you know of one of these outside, look at that! Here is an example for how it works for the last tree in the bottom row.
(Follow the golden arrows)
 1) Answer the first question: does your sample make cones, or does it have broad leaves?
 2) If it has broad leaves, answer the question under broad leaves: are the branches alternate or opposite?
 3) If they are alternate, answer the question under alternate: is the leaf simple or compound?
 4) If it's compound, answer the question under compound: is the bark peeling or ridged?
 5) If it's ridged, then we know we have a black walnut!

