



## **Essential Question**

**What do myths help us understand about plants?**



***Go Digital!***

# Plant Myths



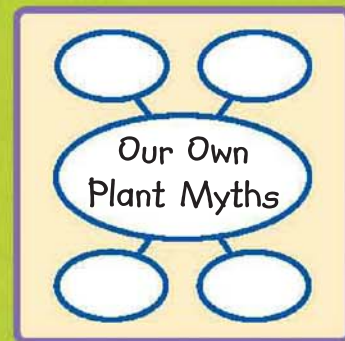
Do you know the myth about bluebells? It is thought that if you disturb them, something bad will happen. Some myths were created to help us understand how plants develop. Other myths help us understand the stages of a plant's life. Here are a few myths about plants.

- ▶ Finding a four-leaf clover is lucky.
- ▶ When a dandelion dies, you will get a wish when you blow away the dried petals.

## Talk About It



Create your own plant myths with a partner. Write your ideas on the web.



# Vocabulary

Use the picture and sentence to learn each word.



**appeared**

Buds **appeared** on the tree in early spring.

*What else do you think appeared in spring?*



**crops**

The farmer grows **crops** of corn and wheat.

*What are some other crops?*



**develop**

The tadpole will **develop** into a frog.

*What is another word for develop?*



**edge**

The ball rolled off the **edge** of the table.

*Point to the edge of your desk.*



**golden**

The **golden** sun shone in the blue sky.

Name some things that are golden.



**rustled**

The leaves **rustled** in the wind.

What else could make a rustling sound?



**shining**

Bill was **shining** the flashlight on the book so we could read it at night.

What else have you seen shining?



**stages**

Egg, caterpillar, and butterfly are **stages** in a butterfly's life.

What are the stages in a cat's life?

## Your Turn

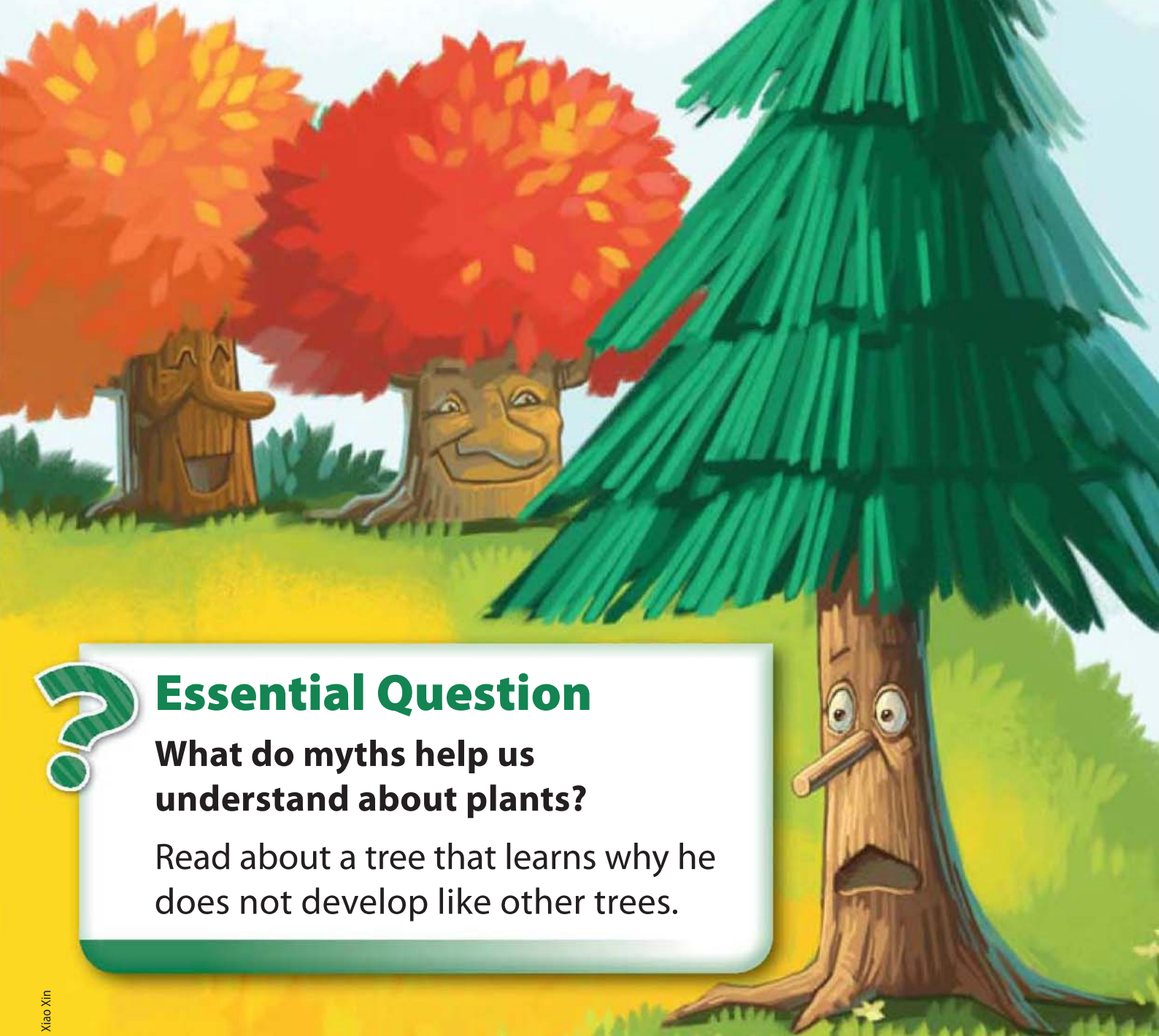
COLLABORATE



Pick three words. Write three questions for your partner to answer.

**Go Digital!** Use the online visual glossary

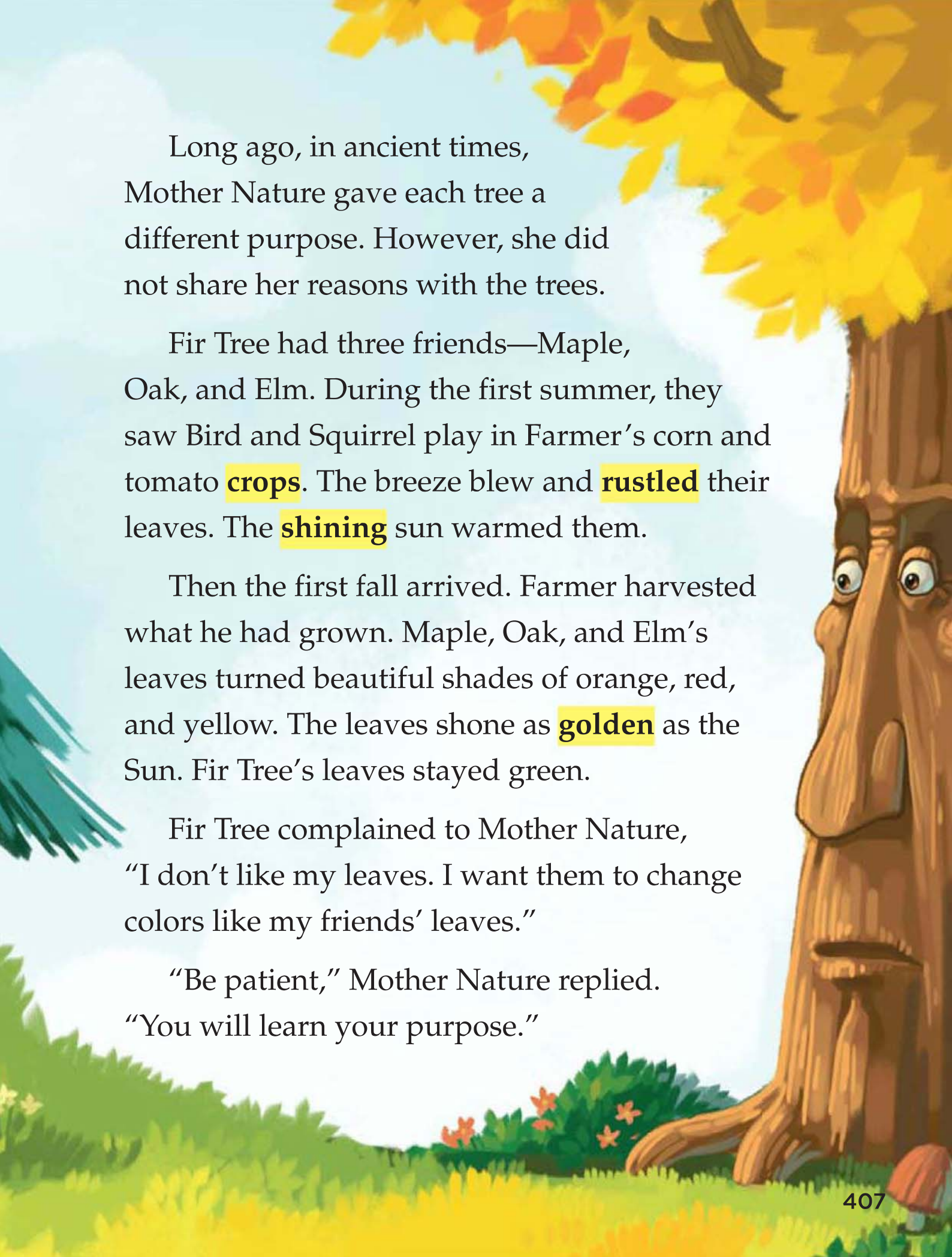
# Why Fir Tree Keeps His Leaves



## Essential Question

**What do myths help us understand about plants?**

Read about a tree that learns why he does not develop like other trees.



Long ago, in ancient times,  
Mother Nature gave each tree a  
different purpose. However, she did  
not share her reasons with the trees.

Fir Tree had three friends—Maple,  
Oak, and Elm. During the first summer, they  
saw Bird and Squirrel play in Farmer’s corn and  
tomato **crops**. The breeze blew and **rustled** their  
leaves. The **shining** sun warmed them.

Then the first fall arrived. Farmer harvested  
what he had grown. Maple, Oak, and Elm’s  
leaves turned beautiful shades of orange, red,  
and yellow. The leaves shone as **golden** as the  
Sun. Fir Tree’s leaves stayed green.

Fir Tree complained to Mother Nature,  
“I don’t like my leaves. I want them to change  
colors like my friends’ leaves.”

“Be patient,” Mother Nature replied.  
“You will learn your purpose.”

So Fir Tree waited. The temperature dropped even more. Bird flew south, and Squirrel was nowhere around. Maple, Oak, and Elm lost their leaves, but Fir Tree's green leaves remained. Soon snow blanketed the ground.

Again, Fir Tree protested to Mother Nature. "Why am I different? Why don't I have **stages** and change like my friends? I seem to be stuck in one period of life!"

"Be patient," Mother Nature replied. "Soon you will **develop** an understanding of your purpose."

Just then, Squirrel **appeared** on the **edge** of the forest. She was cold. When she went inside the forest, she saw Maple. She asked if she could build a warm nest in his branches.



Maple said he didn't have any leaves. She asked Oak and then Elm. Both said the same thing as Maple. She was still bitterly cold.

Squirrel approached Fir Tree. "Excuse me," she said. "May I build a nest in your branches?"

"Yes, that would be nice," said Fir Tree. Squirrel ran up Fir Tree's branches, and she made her nest. Soon, she was warm, comfortable, and asleep.

Fir Tree finally understood that his green leaves provided a warm shelter for animals in the winter. From that moment on, Fir Tree was happy to be different. Still today, he remains proud of his evergreen leaves.

## Make Connections

How did Fir Tree develop differently from his friends? **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

When have you wanted to be like your friends? **TEXT TO SELF**

