

Giant Sequoia/Sequoiadendron Giganteum

The Giant Sequoia, scientifically known as the *Sequoiadendron Giganteum* is an evergreen conifer, with a typical reddish brownish soft, thick bark. This giant tree has a trunk with a wide base that gets thinner after a couple of meters up. It has an extremely soft bark that can easily be punched with a fist, giving it the nickname: the boxing tree. The Giant Sequoia has needles that cover all the branches completely. These needles are very small and scale-like. Also, it has egg-shaped cones that contain hundreds of tiny seeds. These cones are not that big, they are roughly 2 by 3 inches big.

Natural populations of giant sequoia can be found on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada range in California, stretching for roughly 200 miles. They grow in altitudes ranging from 900 to 2440 meters, where there is often a lot of snow in the winter. Redwoods used to be found all over the Northern Hemisphere. The oldest known redwood fossils come from the Jurassic period, more than 200 million years ago. The world's last giant sequoia trees grow on land the size of Cleveland (48,000 acres) in 73 groves dispersed along the Sierras Nevada's western slopes. This brings a lot of tourism to California.

The name "Sequoia" derives from the Cherokee native American Sequoyah (c.1767 - 1843), who developed a writing system for his people. He wanted to protect the Cherokee culture, which had been severely influenced by western civilization. Thousands of native Americans learned to write in this alphabet, which, by the way, is still in use today. The alphabet contained 86 symbols representing each sound in the language of his tribe. This alphabet was so simple that everyone in the tribe could learn to read and write fast, and it is now regarded as one of the modern era's cultural triumphs. In California this tree is used as a way to preserve Cherokee culture for generations due to how long the tree can last.

The ability of giant sequoia to protect themselves from natural hazards has allowed them to persist for thousands of years. They are too tall to be blown over by the wind, and their thick, tannin-rich bark protects them from fire and insect damage. The chemical tannin which is found in the bark of the tree has caused them to be protected from wildfires, which is a large phenomenon in California. Redwoods assist to keep our air pure by absorbing carbon dioxide and minimizing climate change's negative consequences. Old-growth redwoods store up to five times more carbon aboveground than any other type of forest.

Bald eagles, bears, elk, and mountain lions are among the many animals that live in the sequoia woods. The forest is not the only ecosystem at work here. Each sequoia tree may be thought of as a self-contained ecosystem. Because of this, this towering tree has earned the nickname "trees of life.". The Giant Sequoia provides a habitat for two types of mammals: bats and rodents. The great brown bat, the silver-haired bat, and the fringed myotis are among the species. Bats aren't the only mammals that can fly from treetop to treetop in the sequoias. Northern flying squirrels live among the sequoias, gliding in the air. Several bird species nest in or visit sequoia trees to feast on the insects that crawl about the trees and flies through the air around them. Nesting has been observed in sequoia cavities by white-headed woodpeckers, flickers, and nuthatches.

We chose this tree because of its inspirational and historical importance. It is fascinating to explore how much historical background a tree can have. The Giant Sequoia is considered to be a symbolism of wellness, safety, wisdom, and communication. Furthermore, we have always wanted to visit the Pacific Northwestern Region natural wonders, where it includes the Giant Sequoia. This engrossing tree exhibits such a vital role in this region, and it cherishes its cultural and ecological heritage.

Bibliography

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