

**READ THE PASSAGE** Ask yourself questions that help you understand the information.

### **Giants of the Forest**

Redwoods and sequoias (suh-KOY-uhz) are the tallest trees in the world. Both kinds of trees are protected by a very thick, reddish-brown bark. Both can grow to be thousands of years old and weigh over a million pounds (450,000 kg) each.

Redwoods and sequoias are found in California. Redwoods grow along the coast where there is fog. The trees take in the fog's wetness as part of their water supply. Sequoias live inland, in places where the soil is moist.

Both kinds of trees have cones. The cones contain seeds from which new trees will grow. Redwoods grow from tiny round seeds. But redwoods can also sprout from their roots or from round bumps at the base of their trunks. Often, the sprouts grow in a ring around an older tree. The circle of trees is called a fairy ring. Sequoia seeds look like thin flakes. As squirrels munch the cones, the seeds fall to the ground. The seeds have to land in good soil, not on leaves, in order to grow.

**SKILL PRACTICE** Read the item. Write your response.

1. Why might you see a fairy ring near a redwood tree?

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2. Name two ways that sequoias differ from redwoods.

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3. Name four ways in which redwoods are like sequoias.

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**STRATEGY PRACTICE** Think of a question to ask a partner about the two kinds of trees.