

Bald Cypress



**Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**



Bald Cypress

The bald cypress is a species of tree that grows in the swamps and marshes of the Chesapeake Bay. At first glance, you might mistake it for a pine tree. Unlike most other conifers, though, it can grow in the water. Also, its needles turn orange in the fall and drop off in the winter. The bald cypress is a special tree because it has "knees"! How can a tree have knees? The roots of the bald cypress have dozens of growths that shoot up all around the tree. These growths, called knees, help keep the tree from sliding in the wet soil.