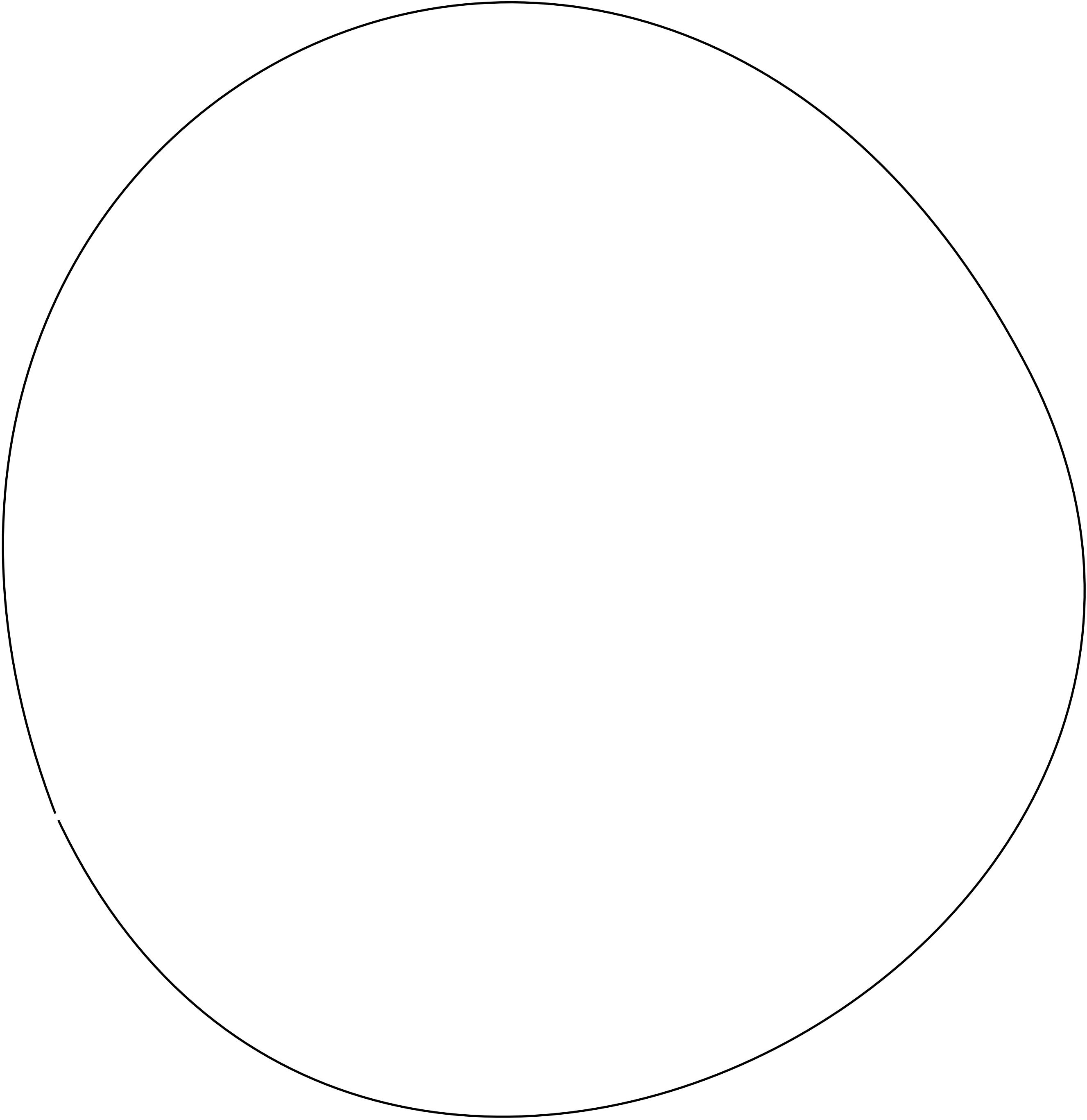
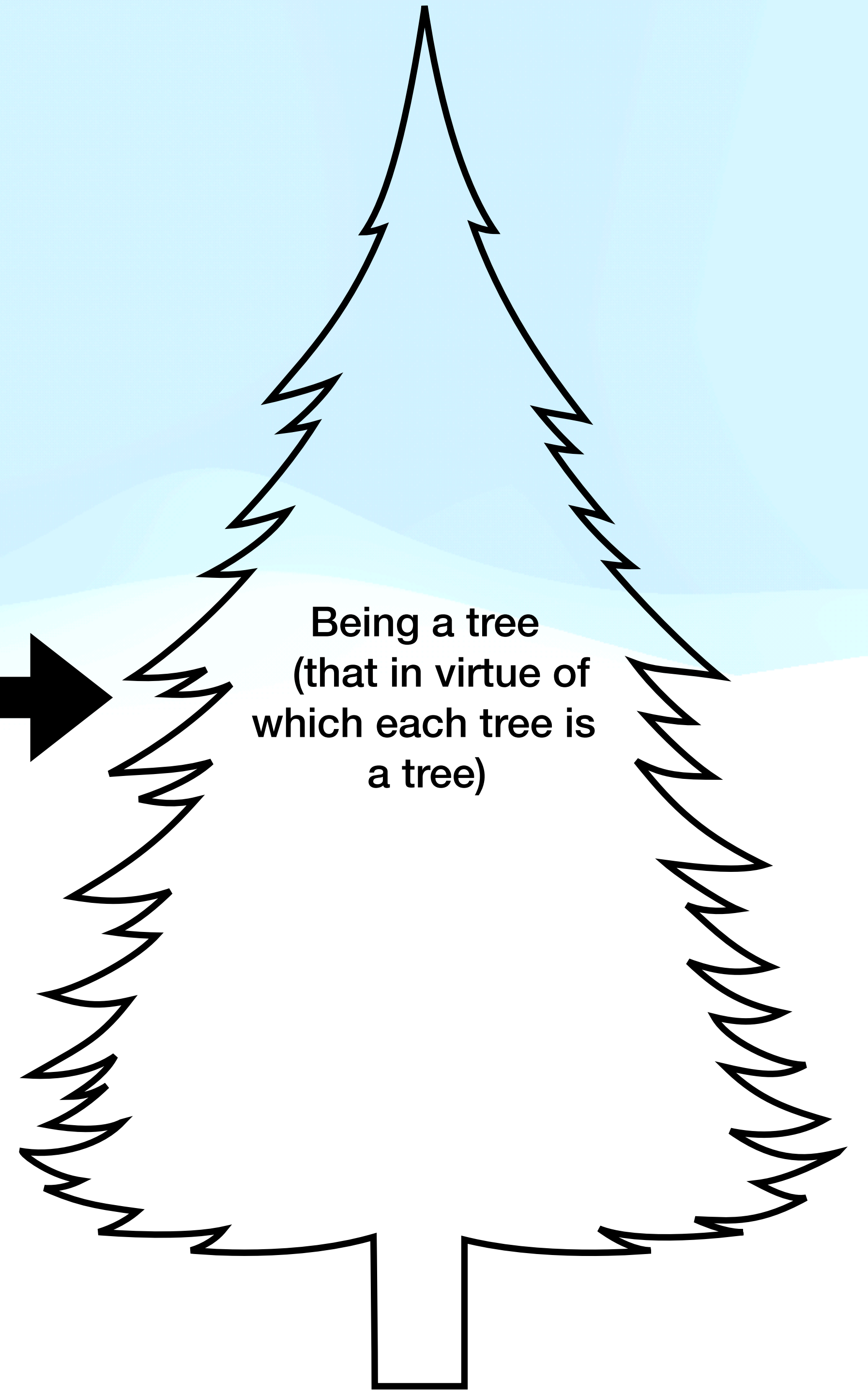
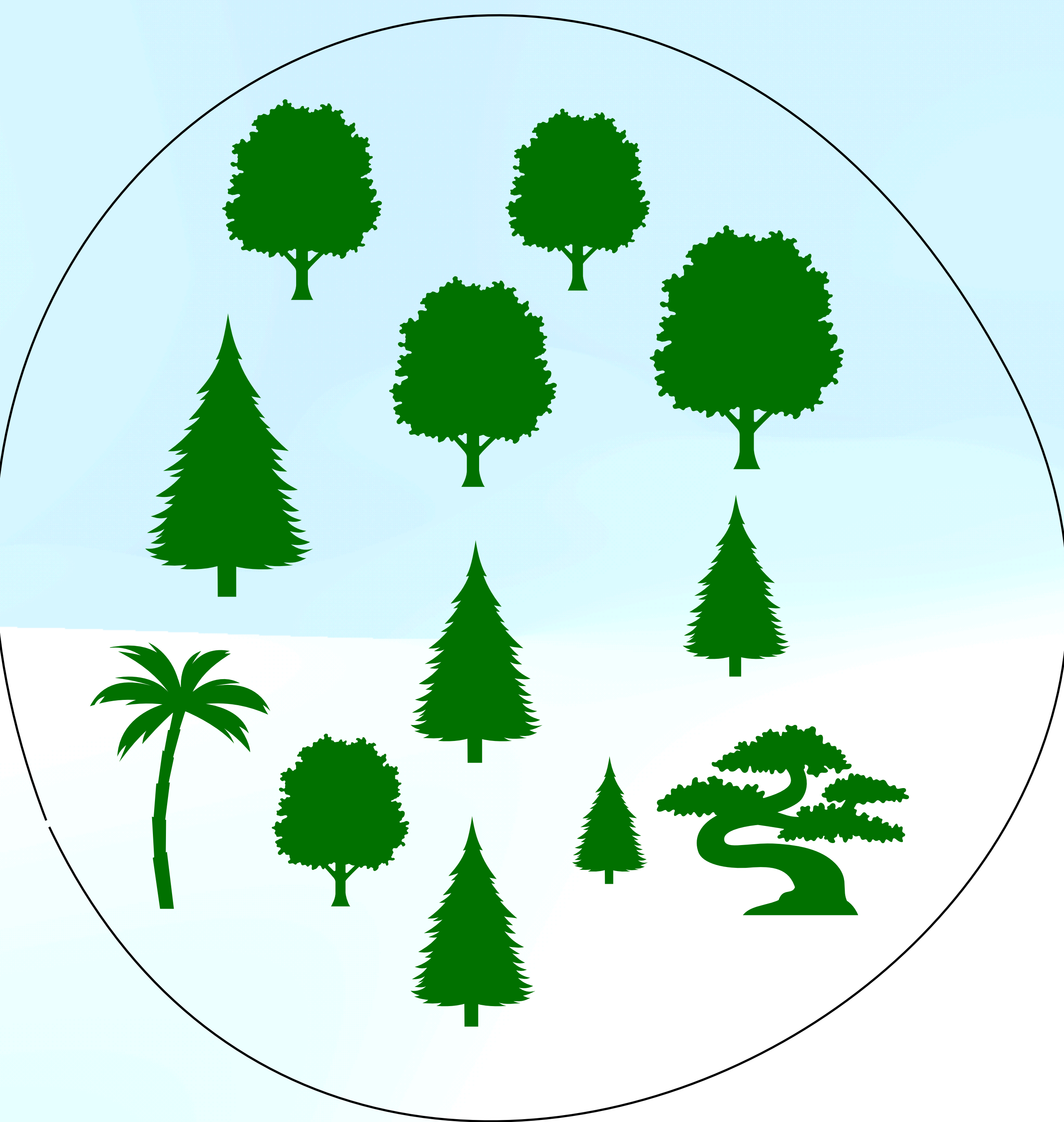


Being a tree  
(that in virtue of  
which each tree is  
a tree)









# The Third Man Argument

## Aristotle's Response to Plato

1. If a number of things,  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , all have property  $P$ , there must be a single universal  $F$  in virtue of which  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  are all  $P$ .
2.  $F$  is not identical to any of  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ .
3.  $F$  has property  $P$ .
4. Therefore,  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $F$  are all  $P$ .
5. If  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $F$  are all  $P$ , there must be another universal,  $G$ , in virtue of which  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $F$  are all  $P$ .
6.  $G$  is not identical to any of  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , or  $F$ .
7.  $G$  has property  $P$ .
8. and so on forever