

Tremendous Trees

Just a few weeks ago the trees in your street or park were totally bare but now there is an explosion of new life and colour. This is a perfect time to start noticing and exploring trees. The [Woodland Trust](#) provide great tick sheets to help you identify some of the tree [twigs](#), [leaves](#) and [blossom](#) in your local area.

Bark Rubbing

The bark of a tree is to protect it from all sorts of insects, fungi and diseases. It also helps the tree breathe!

You will need: a piece of paper and wax crayons.

Choose a tree with interesting textured bark. Place your paper flat against the tree trunk and rub the side of your crayon all over your paper. Try a different type of tree, has it got a different pattern?

Shake a tree

Trees provide homes for hundreds of different insects, spiders and other animals.

You will need: a piece of white material (a white t-shirt or pillow case will do).

Lay your material under a tree or bush. Shake the branches of the tree. See what falls out! You might find tiny spiders, an early ladybird coming out of hibernation or even a shield bug!

Leaf Viewer

The leaves of a tree make food for the tree from the sun, the veins in the leaf supply the leaf with water and take the food to the rest of the tree.

You will need: card, scissors, a paperclip and a leaf.

Cut a piece of card into a rectangle, fold to make a square. Cut a small square (approx. 5cm by 5cm) in the centre of the card through both pieces of card to make a square shaped window.

Find a tree leaf and place it between the two squares of card, so that you can see it in the window. Close the leaf viewer with a paperclip. Hold your viewer up to the light and look closely at the veins and colour. Swap leaves with someone else, can you see any differences? Shuffle the viewers and see if you can remember which is your leaf.

Mirror Walk

You will need: a small mirror.



Find a large tree with branches spreading out. Place the mirror under your nose and look down into it. You should be able to

see the branches of the tree in your mirror. Get a grown up to hold your arm so that you don't trip up, then slowly walk around under the tree looking down into the mirror. Pretend you are a squirrel looking for somewhere to make your nest!

Hug a tree

Trees give us our oxygen to breathe and help to take pollution out of our air. They even give us shade from the sun and shelter from a rain shower in the summer.

Say thank you by giving your local tree a big hug!

