

Winter Trees

Although our trees are looking bare and lifeless, inside they are getting ready to burst into life for spring. If you look closely you might spot buds starting to develop or catkins dangling from Hazel or Willow trees. Even without their leaves, you can still spot different types of trees - the [Woodland Trust](#) provide a great tick sheet to help you identify them by their [twigs](#).

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?



Find my Tree

You will need: a partner, several trees nearby, a blindfold.

Put on your blindfold and let your partner lead you to a tree. Feel the tree all over, is it smooth or rough? Hug the tree to see how big it is, can you feel any branches coming out from the tree? What does it smell like? Is it thicker at the base? Once you have got to know your tree, let your partner lead you away, and turn you round a few times. Take off your blindfold and see if you can work out which was your tree!

Measure the age of a tree

Trees are one of the oldest living things on our planet. The oldest tree in the UK is the Fortingall Yew, which is thought to be between 2,000-3,000 years old!

You will need: a tape measure.

Trees grow roughly 2.5cm in girth (the measurement around the trunk) per year. To estimate how old a tree is, measure its girth at 1m from the ground in cm, and divide this by 2.5. This will give you the rough age of the tree.

Oak and beech trees grow a bit slower so divide these by 1.88, or pine trees grow faster, so divide these by 3.13.

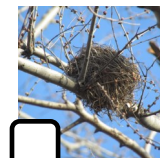
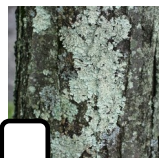
Useful Trees

Trees are really useful; they give us our oxygen to breathe, provide us with food, shelter and shade. Wood from trees is used for many things from furniture to spoons. Search your house and count all the things made from wood. Don't forget - paper comes from wood too, so you will have to count all your books!



What lives in a tree?

Trees provide homes for millions of different animals, plants and fungi. Go on a walk to find some trees in your street or your local green space. What can you spot living in trees?



Match the words to the pictures

nest

spider

lichen

fungus

squirrel

bird

woodlouse

monkey

Can you spot the odd one out?