

Science Week 2: Lovely Leaves

Our activities this week are all aimed at appreciating the beauty of the trees around us whilst learning to identify common British trees. You can work together as a family on all of these activities.

1. Identifying trees & bark rubbings

Go on a walk in your local area and see how many different types of trees you can identify. The Woodland Trust offers a free leaf spotter sheet or leaf dial here: [leaf spotter](#) and they also have a free Tree ID app [tree identification app](#). You will need to use careful observation skills to look at the shape and margins of the leaves to identify which tree they belong to. When you are out, collect one leaf from each type of tree to bring home. If you have crayons, you could also produce a bark rubbing of each tree. Remember to write down the name of the tree with your bark rubbing!

2. Classifying Leaves

With the leaves you have collected on your walk, see how many different ways you can sort them (think about the characteristics that are similar and those that are different). You could sort them using a Venn diagram. If you want a challenge, you could use your leaves to make a classification key (shown in the image on the right, with an example to explain [here](#) and the leaf one [here](#)).

3. Make a herbarium

A herbarium is a collection of preserved plant species. As a family, have a go at making a temporary herbarium including each tree you have identified. Each 'page' in your herbarium will need your leaf specimen (or a painted leaf print of your leaf specimen), your bark rubbing and some information about the tree they come from. If you are keen on preserving your leaves forever, you could have a go at pressing them. I still have flowers that I pressed as a child: they can last a long time!

