

Topic Focus

Living things and their habitats, plants and animals and working scientifically.

Overview

The activities in this topic encourage children to see burial grounds as important havens for a range of wildlife. They encourage children to explore different habitats and to view burial grounds from different angles. By investigating mini-beasts, habitats and trees as well as important British species like Hedgehogs, Bumblebees, Lichens and Yew trees the children will use and develop observation and recording skills as well as simple field techniques.

The activities are: Tremendous Trees, Green Guardians, Mini-Beast Mania, Habitat Hunter, Let's Investigate Lichens, Creature Comforts - Hedgehogs, Bumblebees, Slow Worms, Swifts.

EYFS, KS1 & KS2

Key Skills

Investigating
Observing
Questioning
Classifying
Identifying
Recording
Measuring

Key Words

Habitat
Conditions
Mini-beast
Lichen

Curriculum Links

This topic helps develop pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding in Science, Geography, and PSHE.

EYFS

Understanding the World
The World

John Muir Award

Discover

Explore

Conserve

Share



Try the following activities if you are working for any of the following badges:

Rainbows - Look and Learn

Beavers - Explore Activity

Brownies - Environment, Friend to Animals, Science Investigator, Seasons, Wildlife

Cubs - Naturalist Activity

Guides - Animal Active, Science

Scouts - Naturalist Activity, Global Conservation Activity

Tremendous Trees

Burial grounds often have fine examples of large trees providing children with many opportunities to explore them. The suggested activities provide a range of fun learning experiences for children to enjoy.

Resources

Measuring tape, blindfold, drawing materials - e.g. pencils, crayons, colour pencils, fine black pens, pastels, paper and sketchbooks and camera.

[Tree Measuring](#)

[More Trees!](#)

[Food Glorious Food!](#)

[Leaf Templates](#)

[Tree Writing Frame](#)

Activity Ideas

Explore all things TREE! In small groups children could undertake one or several of the activities on the [tree measuring](#) and [more trees!](#) sheets. When working out how old the tree is using the [tree measuring](#) sheet, the children can either use their own height more than once (how many hugs do I need to give the tree?) or else they can work together with children of different height and then add their separate heights together or even take an average height. NB this won't work with an ancient Yew tree as they are so slow growing.

Food glorious food!

Trees are important producers. [Use the food glorious food sheet and photos](#) and see how many of these plants and animals you can find in the burial site. Create a food chain mobile with a tree at the centre.

Create your own food chain

Starting with part of the tree; a leaf, bark, deadwood, flower, seed. See what creatures you can observe feeding during your visit, take photographs or sketch them.

Create your own tree food chain mobile

The food chains in the [food glorious food photo sheet](#) illustrate:

Tree ➤ Fallen leaf ➤ Woodlouse ➤ Thrush ➤ Sparrowhawk

Tree ➤ Leaf ➤ Caterpillar ➤ Robin

Tree ➤ Dead wood ➤ Fungus ➤ Slug ➤ Hedgehog

Tree ➤ Flower ➤ Bank Vole ➤ Weasel

Tree ➤ Flower ➤ Moth ➤ Bat ➤ Tawny Owl

Tree ➤ Berry ➤ Squirrel



© Audio Trails

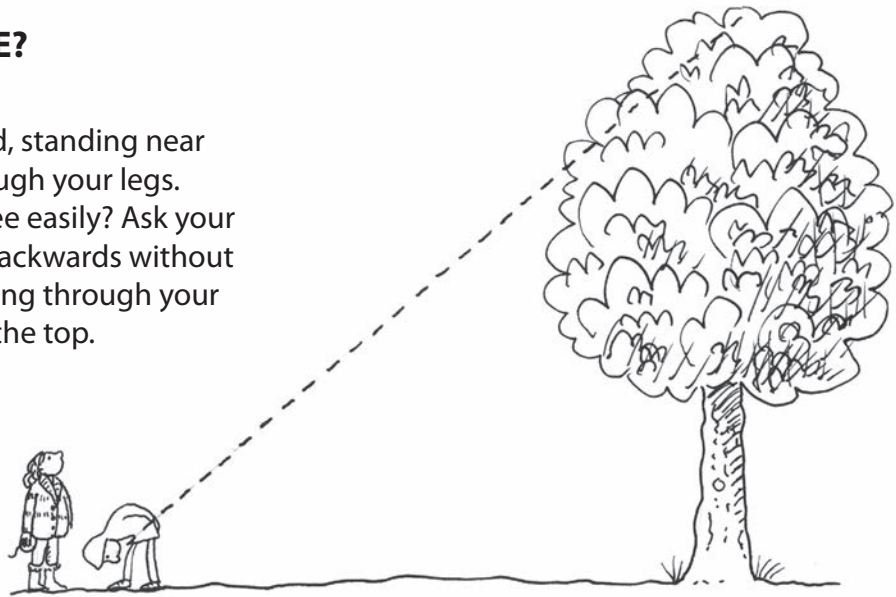
EYFS

Find the tallest tree, the tree furthest from you and the widest tree. Match leaves with each other and with the [leaf templates](#). Make tree shapes with your body.

TREE MEASURING

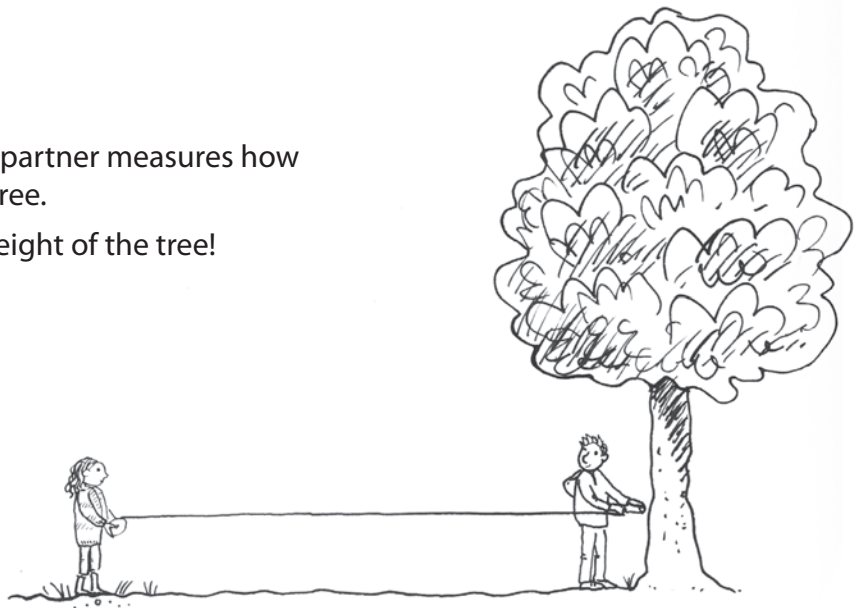
HOW TALL IS YOUR TREE?

Choose a tree to measure and, standing near to it bend over and look through your legs. Can you see the top of the tree easily? Ask your partner to help you to walk backwards without tripping while you keep looking through your legs. Stop when you can see the top.



Stand up and stay still while your partner measures how far you are from the trunk of the tree.

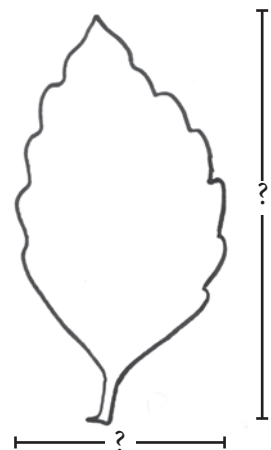
This distance is the same as the height of the tree!



HOW MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE TREE CAN YOU MEASURE?



Leaf - length and breadth?
Around a branch?
Around the trunk?



HOW OLD IS YOUR TREE?

Give your tree a hug. It may take more than one of you to reach right around.

The distance between the tips of your fingers when your arms are outstretched is approximately the same as your height. How many hugs do you need to give the tree in order to reach right round?



Multiply the number of hugs by your height in cms

To find out how old the tree is you need to multiply this number by two as this gives you the number of years old.

Your height = **cm**

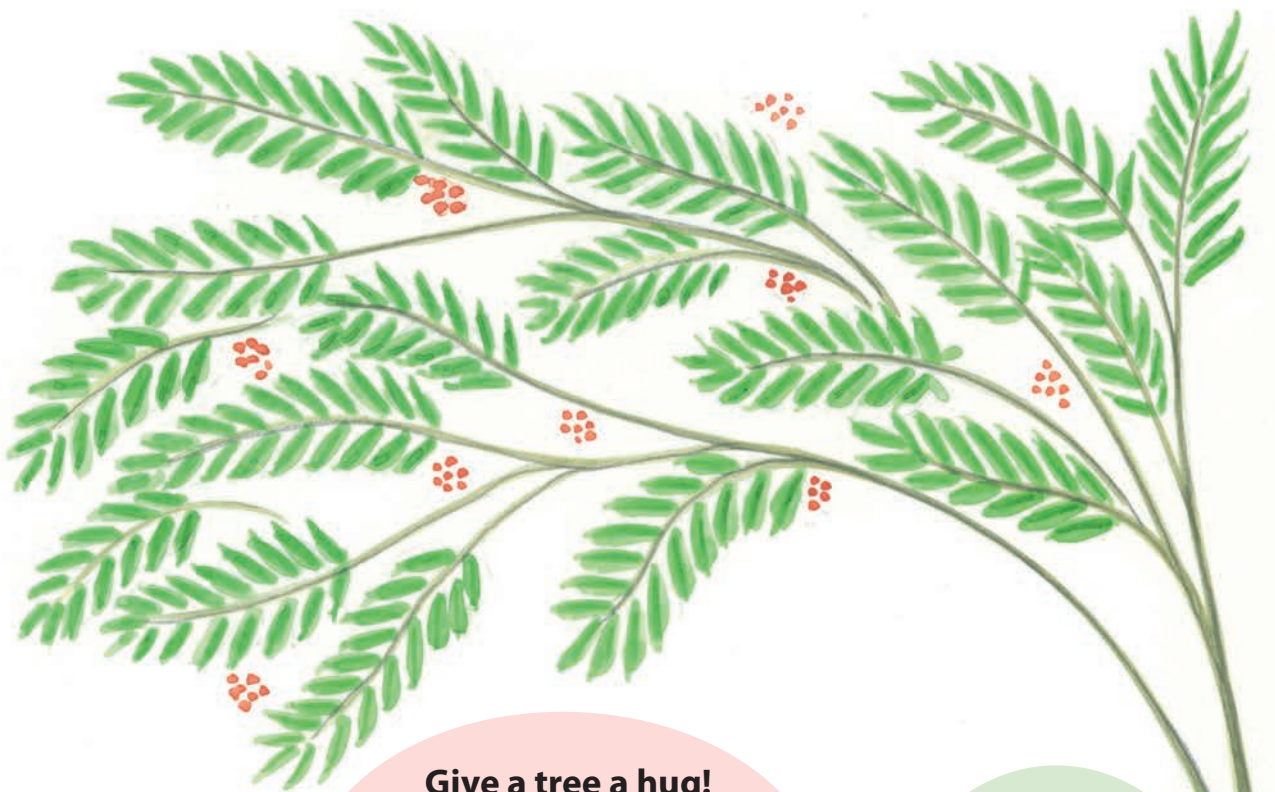
X number of hugs =

X 2 = **age of the tree in years**



Can you find a tree
the same age as you?

MORE TREES!



Give a tree a hug!

With your blindfold on get to know your tree.

Hug it, feel it, listen to it, smell it!

Tell a friend what you have discovered.



Tree creations

Sketch the tree.

Take bark and leaf rubbings.

Collect materials fallen from the tree and create a natural collage or tree bunting.

Produce leaf prints.

Investigate the folklore around tree names.

Bark detective

Use a torch and magnifying glass to discover what is hiding in the bark.

What lives there?

What are the conditions like?



FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD!



Trees are important producers, see if you can see any signs of creatures eating leaves, bark, flowers, berries, seeds or wood from a tree?

Have a look for some of the creatures in the photos, can you work out what eats what? Put them in order.

Create your own food web mobile with a tree at the centre.



Fallen leaf

© northeastwildlife.co.uk



Bank Vole

© northeastwildlife.co.uk



Bat

© Hugh Clark / Bat Conservation Trust



Hedgehog

© Lisa Griffiths People's Trust for Endangered Species



Woodlouse

© northeastwildlife.co.uk



Caterpillar

© Butterfly Conservation



Robin

© northeastwildlife.co.uk



Slug

© northeastwildlife.co.uk



Sparrowhawk

© northeastwildlife.co.uk



Tawny Owl

© northeastwildlife.co.uk



Thrush

© northeastwildlife.co.uk



Weasel

© northeastwildlife.co.uk



Berries

© Caring for God's Acre



Leaf

Peter Carty



Tree

Peter Carty



Dead Wood

Peter Carty



Moth

H Davies Caring for God's Acre



Squirrel

© northeastwildlife.co.uk



Fungus

© Colin Morris



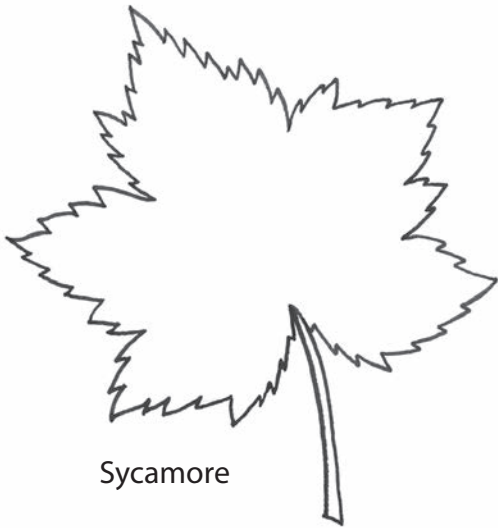
Berry



Flower

Peter Carty

LEAF TEMPLATES



Sycamore



Hawthorn



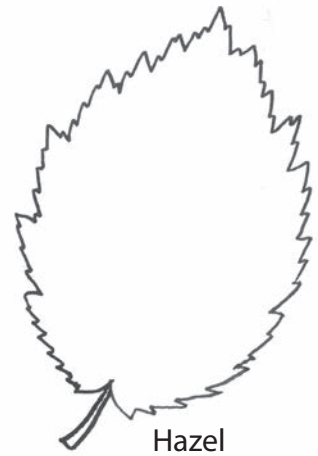
Holly



Oak



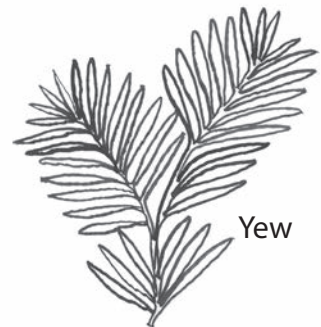
Ash



Hazel



Which leaves can
you find?
Can you find
different ones?



Yew



Beech

