TREES

Trees are the lungs to our world and everything living on it. It's difficult to explain just how important trees are and often we forget. It's important that everyone in the world cares for trees, protects them, helps them and grows them themselves.

Trees can be found everywhere, from the countryside to the city, from the national parks to the town centres, but one thing is for sure, there are nowhere near enough trees in this world.

Why not go outside and learn to identify some trees? When you start knowing what it is you're looking at, it's easier to care. At the right time of year, you can even find some seeds and have a go at growing your own!

There are two main types of tree:

- **EVERGREEN** – These trees keep their leaves all year round.
- **DECIDUOUS** – The leaves of these trees change colour and fall off in the autumn. Deciduous trees have no leaves through the winter.



There are about 60,000 different species of amazing trees in the world. Here are some of the most common trees:

- Beech
- Oak
- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Silver birch
- Willow
- Horse chestnut
- Sycamore

Find a leaf from each type of tree!

Do you know which trees these seeds come from?

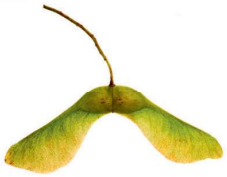
1



2



3



Answers: 1. Oak; 2. Horse chestnut; 3. Sycamore



LEAF PRINTS

Nature is the most perfect artist. The incredible beauty that nature creates never fails to amaze, as long as you take the time to look.

You can use nature as a helping hand to create something very special. If you pick up a leaf from the floor, look closely at its features: colours, veins, shape, structure and texture. You can use these details to make your own amazing art.



What to do

1. Take this book outside and collect a range of different leaves.
2. Once you're back home, very carefully paint the surface of the leaves, one leaf at a time. It's better to use a thin layer of paint on each leaf.
3. Press the painted leaf paint-side down onto some paper then pull off immediately. Hopefully you'll see the leaf printed onto the paper!
4. Repeat this process with all the leaves.
5. You can create a picture, different patterns, simple designs – there are so many options!
6. How about creating your own leaf print guide? Print the leaf of a tree and write information about the tree next to it – you can create your very own identification book.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Leaves are food factories for trees and plants. Without leaves, trees wouldn't live and grow.
- The green colour in leaves is called chlorophyll and sucks in a gas called carbon dioxide from the air. Chlorophyll uses water that the tree has sucked up from the ground and the carbon dioxide in the leaf to make special sugars. This is the tree's food and helps it grow. This process is called photosynthesis.
- Deciduous trees drop their leaves in winter.
- Evergreen trees stay green all through the year.
- You can use trees to help you work out which way you're pointing: north, south, east or west (see page 83).

WILDLIFE

Have you ever seen...



...a fox slinking through a hedgerow?



...a tawny owl flying silently above your head?



...a hunting pike?



...a mole sticking its head out of the ground?

All these things and so much more are happening every day, and most people have no idea. It's all out there – you just need to get outside, be patient and look.

There are ways to encourage amazing creatures to come to you. Sometimes it's the tiny things happening right under your feet that are the most amazing of all. Discovering them is an adventure in itself!

When you go outside make a note of any creatures you see.

Date seen	Species	Description