



# Take It Outside: Summer

## Tree ID

### Introduction

Develop a greater appreciation and understanding of your natural environment through an investigation of your school grounds. Can you name the plants and trees growing there? How could you identify a particular tree?

### You will need:

- notepad
- magnifying glass
- crayons or pencils
- this twinkl resource might support your investigation:  
[www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-s-875-tree-identification-sheet](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-s-875-tree-identification-sheet)



### Key Questions

- Which tree has the smallest leaf? Which has the largest?
- Which tree species is most popular in your school?
- What kind of habitat do your trees provide?

### What to do:

1. Use your sense of touch to investigate a tree, checking it is safe first.
2. Feel the bark. Is it rough or smooth? Can you notice a pattern? Create a bark rubbing to add to a journal containing your Tree ID information.
3. Collect a leaf, carefully, from the same tree. If possible, find a leaf the tree has shed to avoid damaging the tree. Draw around it to record its outline. Does it have smooth or sharp edges? How are the leaves arranged around the stem?
4. Make notes on the colour of the leaf. Add to your Tree ID in different seasons to create a comparison.
5. Gather measurements so that you can compare the leaves of different trees.
6. What is the texture of the leaf? Is it smooth or rough? Is it soft or waxy? Try a leaf rubbing to record texture.
7. Once your Tree ID is filled with information, create a journal to collate the information of different trees.



### Ways to Support

Provide books or use tablet to investigate trees further. Can you identify a tree in your school grounds using this information source?

### Ways to Extend

Create a branching database based on the information you have collected as a way for other children to explore the school grounds.

### Curriculum Links

**Science:** Explore and use classification keys to help identify and name living things; set up simple practical enquiries; gather, record, classify and present information; give reasons for classifying plants.