

Trees KS2- How to guide

Collect equipment from the centre and follow the map to Community Wood.

Equipment

You will need to bring:

- clipboards and pencils
- printed 'Tree Study' sheet for pupils to complete

Equipment below is provided

- Leaf key trail
- Laminated leaves (unlabelled) x 11
- Making leaf keys sheets with wipeable pens
- Clinometers x 10
- Tape measures x 10
- Calculators x 10
- Identification sheets/books
- Build a Tree resource sheet

Instructions

1. Leaf Key Trail: split the pupils into small groups (pairs or threes), give each group a laminated leaf. Discuss how dichotomous keys work and ask them to follow the trail to identify the leaf they are holding.

Discuss: was there any terminology they were unfamiliar with, e.g. 'lobed' 'leaflet', what do these mean?

Sort the leaves into deciduous and evergreen species and discuss features of each.

2. Making Leaf Keys: ask pupils to select 3 different leaves in their groups and write a key to identify them. What questions do they need to ask? What are the similarities, differences and defining features?

3. Tree Study: each group will need a clipboard, pencil, Tree Study sheet, clinometer and tape measure and calculator to work out the height, girth and age of a tree.

Discuss: what ages did each group make the trees? Community Wood was planted for the Millennium (2000). How variable were the results?

4. Build a tree: using the whole group, build a working model of a tree to demonstrate how water and food moves throughout a tree. See separate 'Build a Tree' resource sheet.

At the end of the activity

1. Wipe down 'Making Leaf Keys' sheets
2. Check and return all equipment to the box and return it to the centre.