

# Luscious Leaves

Trees are amazing – they provide us with clean air to breathe, food to eat and timber to build with. They create a habitat for whole communities of plants and animals and give us beautiful, natural spaces to enjoy.

Each type of tree is unique and interesting, but sometimes it can be tricky to tell them apart. We have found some great links to resources that can help you identify the trees around you using their leaves, twigs and flowers.



[Tree ID for Kids](#)

[The Guide to British Trees](#)

[The A-Z of British Trees](#)

## The Woodland Trust

All of these resources are from the [Woodland Trust](#), the largest woodland conservation charity in the United Kingdom concerned with the creation, protection, and restoration of native woodland heritage. It has planted over 43 million trees since 1972. They have loads of amazing things on their website for you to explore – they even have a live [`osprey cam`](#)!

## Leafy Artwork

When you are out in your local area why not collect some fallen leaves and make some cool artwork with them?

While you collect the leaves, look closely to see if you can see differences between them.

Why do you think trees and plants have leaves look and feel different?

- How many different coloured leaves can you find?
- Can you spot anything that the leaf has that could be for defence?
- Is there any evidence that an animal might have lived on or near the leaf?

### **\*Important\***

Be careful when picking up leaves as some may have spines or irritants that protect them from grazing animals. Use gloves if you can.





We would suggest that you only collect leaves that have fallen to avoid damaging the tree.

Trees need their leaves to capture sunlight and get energy, but they do fall off by themselves so we should try to collect those ones.

Make sure you give the leaves a gentle shake near to the ground – there might be some little creatures living in there and you don't want to take them home too!

The patterns, colours and shapes found in nature can be the best inspiration for creating beautiful artwork.

**Materials needed:**

- Leaves
- Plain paper
- Crayons or colouring pencils

**Instructions:**

1. Place the leaf under the paper with the veins facing upwards
2. Use the crayon to gently rub over the leaf – you should see the pattern appear on the paper
3. Experiment with different leaf arrangements and different colours to create lots of different pictures

We'd love to see your leaf art, so be sure to tag us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

