

Activities to Teach Pupils about Trees!

Background Info and Fun Facts

- Up to 6,000 years ago, forests of oak, ash, birch and hazel covered Ireland. By 1900 only 1% was left. We still have one of the least wooded countries in Europe at approx. 6%
- Trees are important for timber, beauty, habitat for organisms, clean air and have had a huge impact on our culture and society.
- Native trees attract more species of organisms to live on them. In order of species of insect living on them, oak (284), willow (266) and birch (229) come out on top!



Curriculum Links

Subject	Strand	Strand Unit
Science	Living things	Plant life
Mathematics	Measures	Length
Visual Arts	Drawing	Making drawings

1. Find The Age Of A Tree (Senior)

- You will need a measuring tape, string and a log to see rings
- Explain to pupils that a tree trunk grows outwards by about 2.5cm per year roughly and makes a ring. Show the pupils the rings on a cross section of a branch or log. A new ring is made each year.
- Ask pupils to guess the tree age and the reason for the guess
- Finally, get a pupil to bring a piece of string all the way around a tree trunk. Do this about 1.5 metres up from the ground. Then lay the string on the ground, marking its length (diameter of the tree)
- Measure the length of string with a measuring tape and get the pupils to divide this number by 2.5. This is the approx. age of the tree without having to cut it down and count the rings!



2. Make Leaf or Bark Rubbings (Junior)

- You will need sheets of paper and crayons
- Find some trees outside with different leaves and bark
- Get the pupils to close their eyes and feel the bark. How does it feel? Is it rough or smooth?
- Hold a piece of paper against the trunk and rub with the side of the crayon. Do the same with other trunk bark.
- Then collect some leaves from different trees. Get pupils to close their eyes and rub them. How do they feel? Then place them on a hard surface, place a sheet over and rub them the same way as the bark
- Get pupils to lay the sheets out and see if they can match the right bark with the right leaf.



Web Links

- Google www.saps.org.uk + Primary Resources + Tree Height to find the height of a tree
- Try Youtube + Learn About Needs Of A Tree for an informative video