

IN BRIEF

As you might have guessed, **Legend of the Evergreen Trees** is a tale about trees – and why some of them lose their leaves in winter! This pack is full of tree-related facts and activities, and you can learn about the seasons too.



1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- One of the best things about reading stories is discovering cool new words to use! The **Glossary** lists some that you might not know – as well as helpful definitions that tell you what they mean.
- This month's story takes place in winter, and the **Class Discussion Sheet** has questions that encourage you to think about how things change at different times of the year. Remember, the temperature, the weather and even the length of the day change in spring, summer, autumn and winter!
- The extract from '**Legend of the Evergreen Trees**' on the **Reading Comprehension Sheet** contains *adjectives*, an *intensifier* and *direct speech*. Can you find them all?
- A story is made up of a series of events that happen one after the other. Unfortunately, the events on the **Story Sequencing Sheet** have been jumbled up! See if you can figure out the right order to read them in – don't be afraid to go back and re-read the story if you need to double-check anything.
- '**Legend of the Evergreen Trees**' is an old tale that has been retold many times over the centuries. Now, you can come up with your own version on the **Storyboard** page! Write about what happened to the thrush and the trees under the colourful illustrations...
- We have talked about the different seasons using the **Class Discussion Sheet** – but which season do you like best? Write about why you think it is great on the **My Favourite Season!** sheet. You can mention how warm or cold it is, what the weather is like, and the special events take place at that time.

Continued on page 2...

2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS

- Many people don't pay attention to trees, but they really are incredible life forms! **Amazing Trees!** is full of fascinating facts about them – and there's even space to add your own cool tree fact.
- The trees in this month's story were all very different, but they all had things like branches, leaves and twigs! The **Parts of a Tree** sheet challenges you to match the names to the parts shown in the picture.
- Trees go through different stages in their lives, just like humans do! **A Tree's Life Cycle** page has pictures showing all six stages, but you have to work out the correct order for them to go in! When you go for a walk, see if you can spot trees at each of these stages.
- **'Legend of the Evergreen Trees'** features both evergreen and deciduous trees – but how can you tell the difference between them? The **Evergreen or Deciduous?** page has questions that you can use to identify each type.
- The **Tree-Spotting Sheet** has profiles of six different trees – can you work out which ones are deciduous and which ones are evergreen? See if you can spot these trees in your neighbourhood – there's even a space on the sheet for you to write down when and where you saw them!
- Go out and find a tree that you think is really cool and interesting! Draw what it looks like (including its seeds and leaves) on the **Tree-mendous Tree Sheet**. Do you know what it is called? Is it evergreen or deciduous?

3. MATHS LESSON IDEA

- The **Easy Tree Maths! page** has some equations you can solve by drawing pictures of trees. Will you get them right?

Continued on page 3...

4. ART LESSON IDEAS

- Deciduous trees change a lot over the seasons! On the **A Tree for All Seasons** page, draw leaves on the four pictures of a tree to show how it would look in spring, summer, autumn and winter. (You don't have to draw leaves on the tree in winter!)
- A Christmas tree really helps to cheer up the winter season! On the **Colour a Christmas Tree** page, use your felt tips or pencils to brighten up its foliage and cool decorations!

5. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- The **Weekly Tree Organizer!** is a cool and colourful way to make doing homework and other activities fun! Print out the sheet once a week and hang it up on the fridge or your bedroom door. Whenever you complete one of the things listed, add a sticker to that section of the tree. We suggest using sparkly or brightly coloured stickers – before long, your tree will be laden with colourful decorations!
- Trees are beautiful to look at – but did you know that they can help us to feel better, too? Being in green and natural spaces can make us feel calm and peaceful! Scientists have discovered that trees give out chemicals called *phytoncides* that may help reduce stress, lower blood pressure and boost our immune systems.

In Japan, going into the woods to relax and enjoy nature is called '**forest bathing**', and it can be very good for your body and mind. (Don't worry, you won't get wet unless it starts raining!) A forest bathing expedition to a park is a great way to combine a science field trip with health and wellbeing.

To learn more about this activity, go here:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/a-beginners-guide-to-forest-bathing>

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

Look up any new words in this handy reference section!

Legend of the Evergreen Trees (Page 6)

- ▷ **Shivered** – shook with cold
- ▷ **Multitude** – large group
- ▷ **Gust** – sudden strong blast of wind
- ▷ **Shelter** – a safe place to stay
- ▷ **Cushioned** – softened
- ▷ **Chirped** – said in a high-pitched voice
- ▷ **Snapped** – said in an irritated way
- ▷ **Hobbled** – walked as if injured
- ▷ **Pompous** – arrogant and self-important
- ▷ **Sympathetic** – kind and caring
- ▷ **Self-reliance** – being able to take care of oneself
- ▷ **Zesty** – full of flavour
- ▷ **Spruce** – a kind of evergreen tree
- ▷ **Creaky** – sounding like ‘creak’
- ▷ **Subjects** – people who are ruled
- ▷ **Ecosystem** – plants and animals that rely on each other

Santa’s Little Helper (Page 10)

- ▷ **Glided** – moved through the air without flapping her wings
- ▷ **Horizon** – line where the Earth appears to meet the sky
- ▷ **Vast** – very big
- ▷ **Spilled out** – shone out
- ▷ **Talons** – a hunting bird’s claws
- ▷ **Muttering** – talking softly
- ▷ **Twinkle** – little sparkle
- ▷ **Nudge** – gentle push
- ▷ **Yanked** – pulled

- ▷ **Announcement** – special statement
- ▷ **Clipboard** – board for holding papers
- ▷ **Wink** – blink with one eye

The Replacement Reindeer (Page 16)

- ▷ **Stables** – buildings where animals live
- ▷ **Glumly** – in a sad way
- ▷ **Thumping** – banging
- ▷ **Lanky** – tall and thin
- ▷ **Fellow** – person
- ▷ **Peculiar** – strange
- ▷ **Footprints** – marks left by feet

When the Bells Ring (Page 18)

- ▷ **Magnificent** – beautiful and impressive
- ▷ **Altar** – special table in church
- ▷ **Citizens** – people who lived in the city
- ▷ **Frosty** – covered with frost
- ▷ **Buttoned up** – closed up with buttons
- ▷ **Pitiful** – sad-sounding
- ▷ **Offerings** – things that are given
- ▷ **Smug** – pleased with himself
- ▷ **Haughty** – cold and self-centred
- ▷ **Stony** – grim

A Christmas Dream (Page 22)

- ▷ **Sighing** – breathing out in a sad way
- ▷ **Stocking** – kind of long sock
- ▷ **Bonbons** – sweets
- ▷ **Immature** – childish
- ▷ **Splendid** – wonderful and impressive
- ▷ **Galoshes** – waterproof overshoes
- ▷ **Mournful** – very sad

Continued on page 3...

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

- ▷ **Faint** – soft
- ▷ **Amazement** – wonder
- ▷ **Exchanged** – gave each other
- ▷ **Sweetmeats** – sweets

Aguio and Bulanawan (Page 30)

- ▷ **Copper** – a kind of orange-brown metal
- ▷ **Unharmed** – not hurt
- ▷ **Opponents** – enemies
- ▷ **Sabre** – curved sword
- ▷ **Dagger** – knife for fighting with
- ▷ **Gathering** – picking up
- ▷ **Challenger** – person to compete against
- ▷ **Foe** – enemy
- ▷ **Onlookers** – people who were watching

Moniya Tells the Truth (Page 34)

- ▷ **Affection** – love
- ▷ **Beliefs** – things they believed in
- ▷ **Stray** – homeless
- ▷ **Chase** – run
- ▷ **Supervised** – watched over
- ▷ **Situation** – way things were
- ▷ **Legendary** – from legends
- ▷ **Peeking** – secretly looking
- ▷ **Negotiate** – make a deal

La Befana (Page 40)

- ▷ **Rafters** – beams supporting roof
- ▷ **Stomped** – walked with heavy footsteps
- ▷ **Dignified-looking** – serious-looking
- ▷ **Plopped down** – sat down heavily
- ▷ **Thud** – dull sound of something falling or hitting something else
- ▷ **Fumbled for** – clumsily reached for
- ▷ **Chuckled** – laughed softly

Trees are important!

They give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and provide food and shelter for wildlife.



CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT... **the changing of the seasons!**

This month's story is set in winter, so it gives us a chance to talk about the ways in which spring, summer, autumn and winter are different!

1. Which season do you think is the hottest, and which is the coldest? Which ones are somewhere in between?

2. Let's think about plants! What happens to some plants' leaves in spring, summer, autumn and winter?

3. In which season do you think it is most likely to be sunny? When is it usually rainy, and when might you get snow?

4. Did you know that there are more hours of daylight at certain times of the year? When does it stay light for longer – and when does it get dark early?

WHAT WINTER MEANS FOR YOU!

What are the three best (or worst!) things about winter? You could mention the weather, the temperature, or things you like to do in that season!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Can you find the *adjectives*, the *direct speech* and an *intensifier* in this extract from this month’s legend?

66

Then the spruce tree spoke.

“Come and take shelter among the needles on my branches!” it said in a deep and creaky voice. “They are thick and will protect you from the wind and snow!”

The thrush did as the spruce tree told her. She made a nice nest for herself on one of the branches and felt much better.

1. In the second paragraph of the extract, there are two *adjectives* (describing words) that are used to tell you what the spruce tree’s voice sounded like. What are they?

2. There is *direct speech* (where the exact words that a character says are written down) in the extract. What punctuation is used to show which part is direct speech?

3. In the last sentence, can you spot an *intensifier* that is used to make the meaning of the word ‘better’ more powerful?

99

DIRECT AND INDIRECT!

Which of these sentences is ‘direct’ and which is ‘indirect’ speech? Put a **D** or an **I** next to it!

He said he will come to the party.

He said, “I will come to the party.”

Answers: 1. Deep and creaky. 2. Quote marks (“ and ”) are used to mark the beginning and end of direct speech. 3. Much. Direct and indirect! The first sentence has indirect speech and the second sentence has direct speech.

STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

Oh no, the events of this month's story have been mixed up! Can you number the sections below to show the order they should be read in?

First, the thrush went to a birch tree and asked it for food and shelter. The birch tree was rude and told her to go away.

But the juniper tree offered its berries to the poor thrush. They were very tasty, and the thrush thanked the tree.

He was upset that the birch, the oak and the willow had not helped the thrush and told them off.

One of the birds was a little thrush. Her wing was hurt by a gust of wind and she fell to the snowy forest floor.

The forest was ruled by the Frost King. He saw how the trees had treated the thrush and went to speak to them.

But he rewarded the kindly juniper and spruce by allowing them to keep their green leaves all year round!

Next, the thrush asked a mighty oak tree for food. The oak refused, leaving the poor bird hungry.

The Frost King said that as a punishment, they would lose their leaves every winter.

At the beginning of winter, many of the birds that had spent the summer in Scandinavia began to fly south to warmer places.

The spruce tree offered the thrush shelter among its needles. The bird made a nest there and was very grateful!

The little bird went to the willow. This tree pretended to be kind, but said it would not help because the thrush had to learn self-reliance.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

STORYBOARD

Retell the tale of the thrush and the evergreen trees by writing about what happened to them under the pictures below!

1



2



3



4



NAME _____

CLASS _____

AMAZING TREES!

Here are ten reasons why trees are fantastic! Why not do some research about trees and write in an amazing fact of your own?

Trees are the tallest living things on Earth, and some never stop growing! The tallest known tree is more than

They can also live for a very long time! **The oldest known tree lived for 5,000 years** – before it was cut down!

Trees give us rubber, cocoa and many fruits and nuts. Tree timber is used to make houses, furniture and even paper!

There are over **60,000 species of tree** – and more than half of them only grow in one country!

Trees haven't been around for a long time compared to many other life forms. The first trees appeared about **385 million years ago.**

They are big drinkers! Some trees called sequoias can suck up more than **2000 litres of water a day!**

Big trees have little friends! **Tiny fungi** in the soil help them to absorb more water and nutrients, and the trees share some of their sugars with them in return!

Trees outnumber us! There are more than 422 trees for every person...

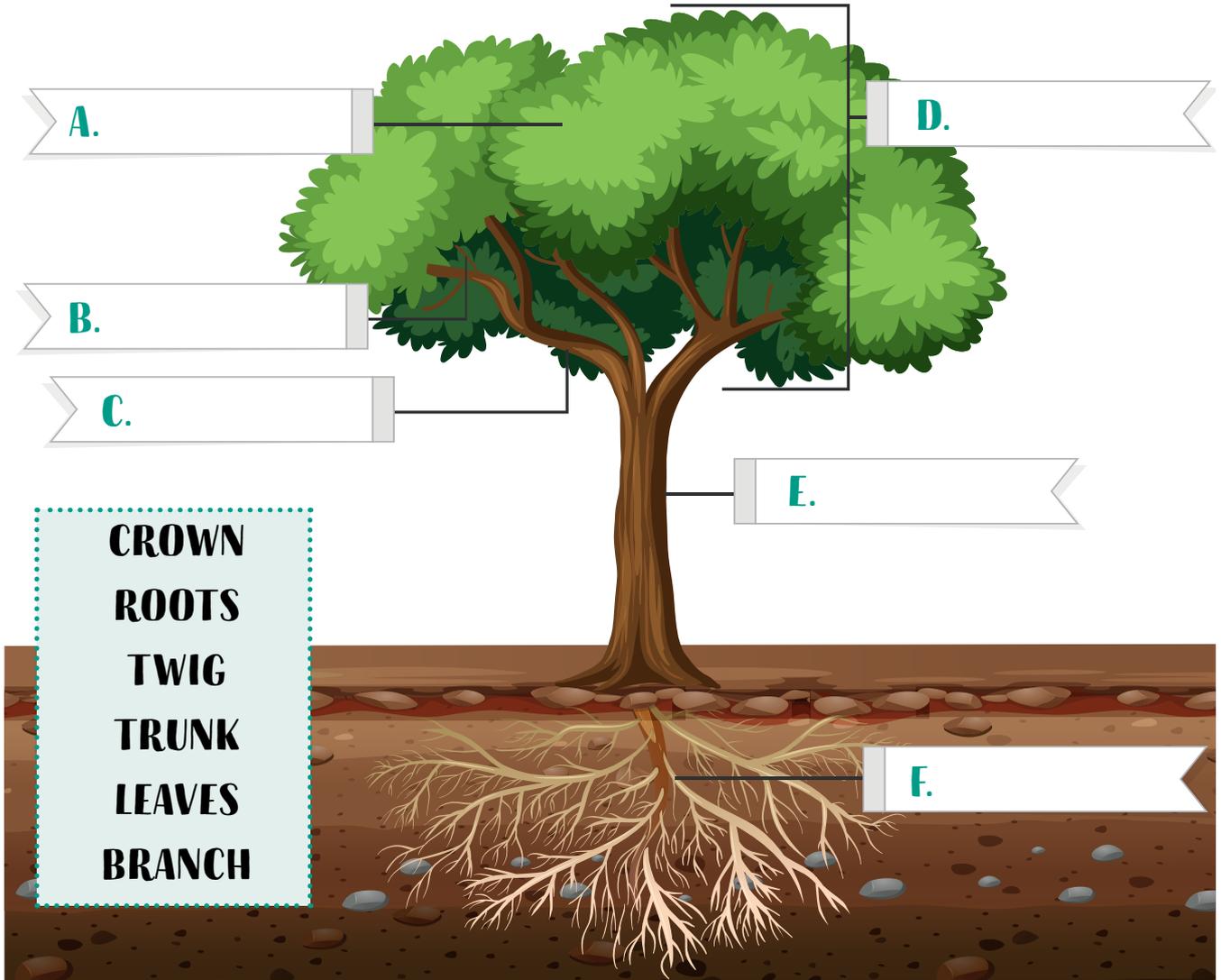
The ancient Celtic people of Europe used to **worship trees** and perform rituals in front of them!

Trees have been to the Moon – or at least their seeds have! Hundreds were taken on a moon trip in 1971. These **'moon trees'** were then planted back on Earth.

MY AMAZING TREE FACT IS...

PARTS OF A TREE

Can you match the parts of the tree below with the words on the list?
Once you have finished, check the answers at the bottom to see how many you got right!



TREES THAT HIBERNATE!

In winter, the leaves of a deciduous tree would freeze and get damaged by the cold weather. To stop this from happening, the trees absorb the nutrients from the leaves (that is why they turn brown, yellow or red!) The leaves fall from the branches and the tree then ‘rests’ for the winter.

Answers: A. leaves, B. twig, C. branch, D. crown, E. trunk, F. roots.

NAME _____

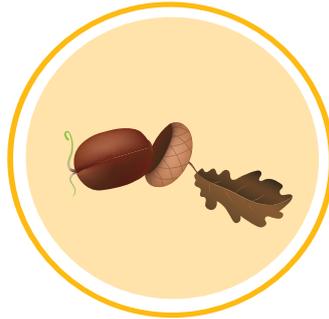
CLASS _____

A TREE'S LIFE CYCLE

Below are the six stages in a tree's life cycle. See if you can number them to show which comes first, which comes next, and so on...



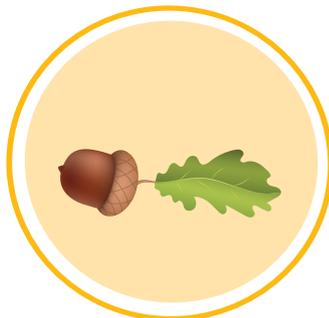
Snag (dead tree)



Sprout



Mature tree



Seed



Sapling



Seedling

HOW DO TREES GET POLLINATED?

Many trees need pollen from other trees to grow seeds! Some, like hazel, crab apple and rowan trees, grow flowers. These attract insects (like bees) that carry pollen to other trees and fertilise them so they can produce seeds. Coniferous trees like pines produce cones rather than flowers and let the wind carry their pollen to other trees. At certain times of year, you can see great clouds of pollen in the air!

Answers: The correct order is 1. seed, 2. sprout, 3. seedling, 4. sapling, 5. mature tree, 6. snag.

EVERGREEN OR DECIDUOUS?

Here are some handy tips to help you identify these two different types of tree. Why not try to spot a deciduous tree and an evergreen in the park?

EVERGREEN



Evergreens are trees whose leaves stay green all year round. Many tropical trees are evergreens, as are pines and other conifers (trees that grow their seeds in cones).

DECIDUOUS



Deciduous trees are trees that shed their leaves once a year, usually in autumn. They then hibernate over winter and grow new leaves in spring.

WHAT ARE ITS LEAVES LIKE?

Waxy and needle-like or scale-like

Wide, with a stem down the middle

WHAT COLOUR ARE ITS LEAVES?

Green all year round!



Green in spring and summer, brown, yellow or orange in autumn



DOES IT LOSE ITS LEAVES IN WINTER?

No

Yes

DOES IT HAVE FLOWERS?

Many evergreens do not

Many deciduous trees do



WHERE ARE ITS SEEDS?

In cones or small berries

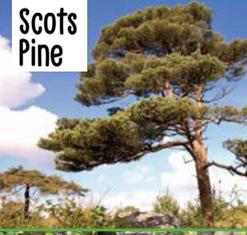
In nuts or fruits



DID YOU KNOW? You can usually work out if a tree is deciduous or evergreen using the questions above – but there are some exceptions! For example, some trees that have broad leaves with a stem in the middle keep their leaves all year round, especially if they grow in a place that does not have cold winters. Also, some tropical fruit trees like the avocado and papaya are evergreen.

TREE-SPOTTING SHEET

Can you work out if these six trees are evergreen or deciduous? If you spot one of them in your neighbourhood, note down when and where you saw it!

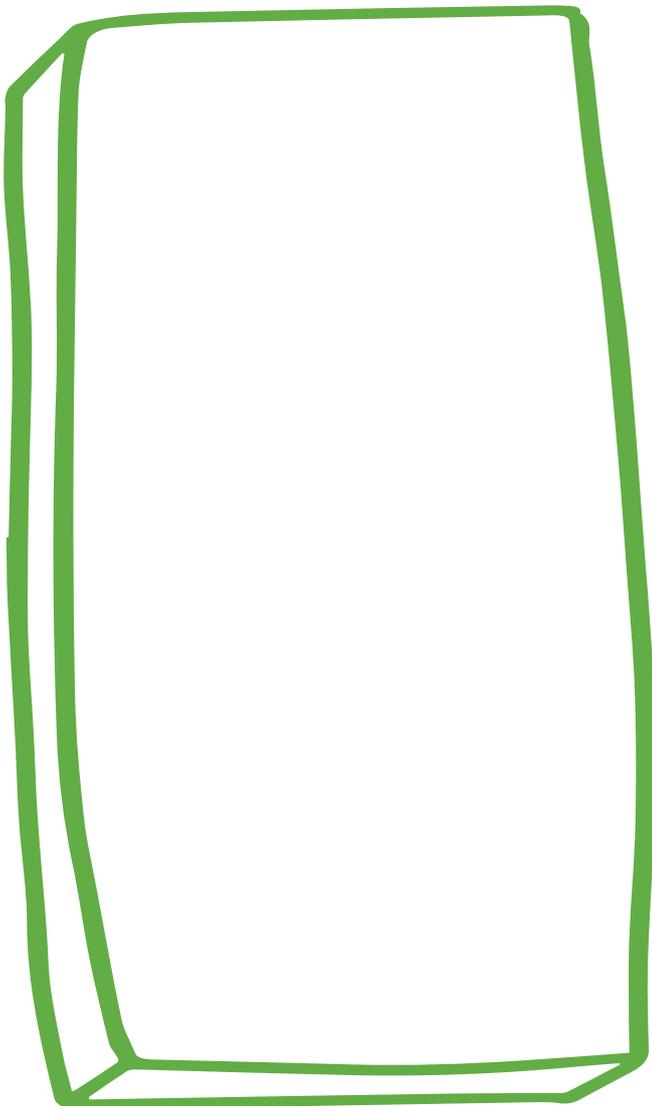
Tree	Leaf	What it grows...	Type	I saw it...
Oak 			Evergreen <input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous <input type="checkbox"/>	/ / _____ _____
Scots Pine 			Evergreen <input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous <input type="checkbox"/>	/ / _____ _____
Holly 			Evergreen <input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous <input type="checkbox"/>	/ / _____ _____
Apple 			Evergreen <input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous <input type="checkbox"/>	/ / _____ _____
Yew 			Evergreen <input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous <input type="checkbox"/>	/ / _____ _____
Maple 			Evergreen <input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous <input type="checkbox"/>	/ / _____ _____

ANSWER: Oak, apple and maple trees are deciduous. Scots pine, holly and yew trees are evergreen.

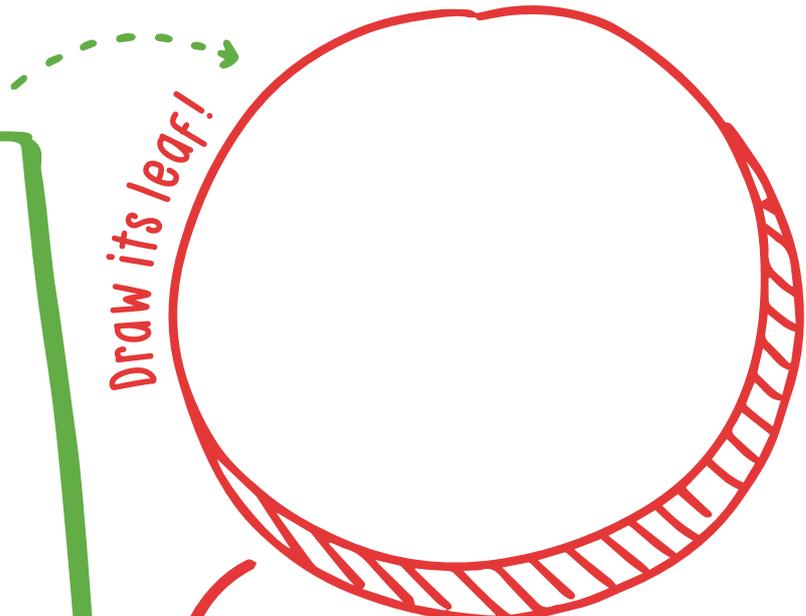
TREE-MENDOUS TREE SHEET!

By now, you will be an expert at spotting evergreens and deciduous trees! Why not go to the park and take notes about an interesting tree you see there? Draw it (and its leaves and seeds) on this sheet.

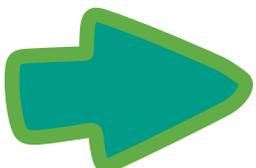
Sketch the tree!



Draw its leaf!



The seeds look like this...



Is it deciduous or evergreen? _____

What is it called? _____

NAME _____

CLASS _____

EASY TREE MATHS!

Can you complete the equations below? Draw in the number of trees you need to add in the boxes, then write in the right number in the spaces.

					
---	--	--	--	--	--

A 1 + _____ = 6

					
--	--	--	--	--	--

B _____ + 2 = 6

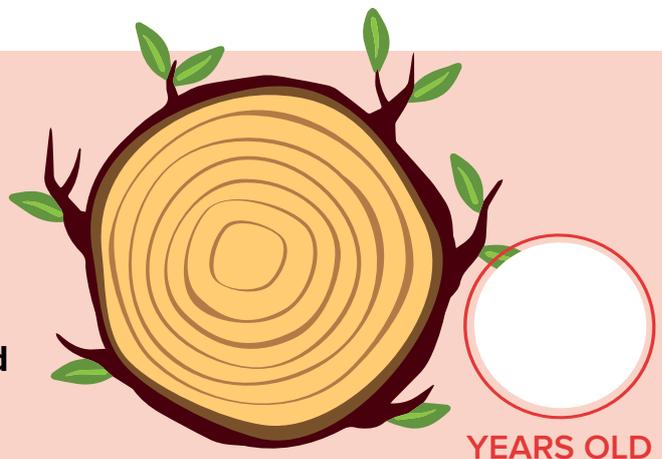
					
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C 3 + _____ = 6

HOW OLD IS IT?

Did you know that when a tree is cut down, you can work out how old it is by counting the 'rings' in its trunk?

A tree usually grows a new ring each year. Look at the tree on the right and write in the total in the circle!

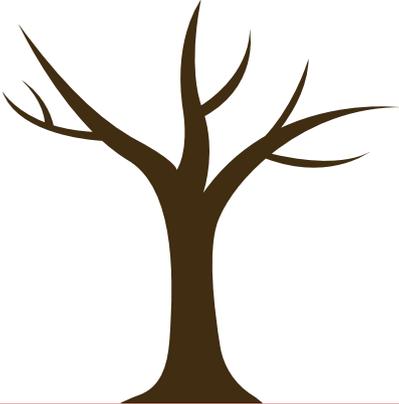
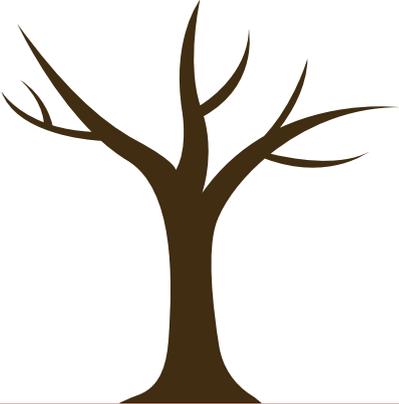
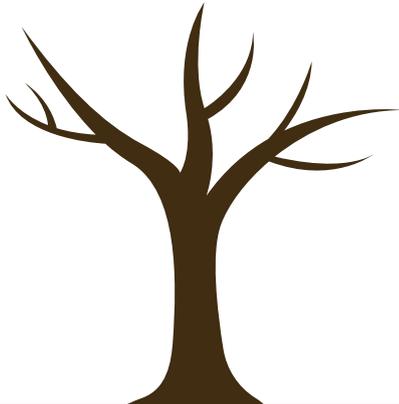


YEARS OLD

NAME _____ CLASS _____

A TREE FOR ALL SEASONS

Draw and colour in the leaves on the deciduous tree below to show how it would look in each of the four seasons! Think about what you have learned in this pack and look outside for some inspiration too!

Spring	Summer
	
Autumn	Winter
	

COLOUR A CHRISTMAS TREE

Our favourite evergreen in the whole wide world is the Christmas tree! Colour in the one on this page – as well as its decorations!



DID YOU KNOW?

Christmas trees were originally a German custom! They were introduced to the UK by Prince Albert, the German husband of Queen Victoria. (She ruled from 1837 to 1901).

WEEKLY TREE ORGANIZER!

Print out this fun Christmas tree and use it to keep organised! For every task that you complete, put a sticker on that section of the tree. See if you can fill it all up and make your tree sparkle!

