

TOPIC PACKS · K-Y4

Trees & Plants Week

Five days about the green things that make Earth liveable

Day 1 — Tree identification

Day 2 — Photosynthesis (without big words)



Day 3 — Tree vs plant, and why it matters

Day 4 — Plant a seed

Day 5 — Forest ecology

Common trees — quick identification

Tree	Identifiable by	Found in
Oak	Lobed leaves, acorns	UK, US, much of Europe
Beech	Smooth grey bark, pointed buds	UK, Europe
Birch (silver)	White papery bark	UK, US, cold regions



Tree	Identifiable by	Found in
Maple (incl. sycamore)	5-pointed leaves, helicopter seeds	UK (sycamore), US (maples)
Pine	Needles, cones, evergreen	Cold and mountainous regions
Horse chestnut	Large palm-shaped leaves, conkers	UK, Europe (introduced from Balkans)
Holly	Spiky evergreen leaves, red berries	UK, Europe
Willow	Long thin leaves, often by water	Anywhere damp
Apple/cherry/plum (fruit trees)	White or pink spring blossom	Gardens
Yew	Dark green needles, red berries (DO NOT EAT)	Churchyards traditionally

Tree facts to wow children with

Oldest known tree About 5,000 years old — a bristlecone pine in California

Tallest tree A redwood in California — about 116 metres (taller than Big Ben)

Why leaves change colour in autumn Trees stop making green chlorophyll. The yellows, oranges, and reds were always there but masked

Why some trees lose leaves and others don't Deciduous trees (oak, maple, birch) drop leaves to save energy in cold months. Evergreens (pine, holly) have tougher leaves that survive winter

How do roots grow? Toward water and nutrients, mostly downward but also outward. Roots can be as wide as the tree's branches

Communication between trees Recent research suggests trees share food and warning signals through underground fungal networks. Sometimes called the 'wood wide web'

Number of trees on Earth About 3 trillion. Number lost in deforestation per year: about 10 billion

