



Herts and Middlesex



Wildlife Watch

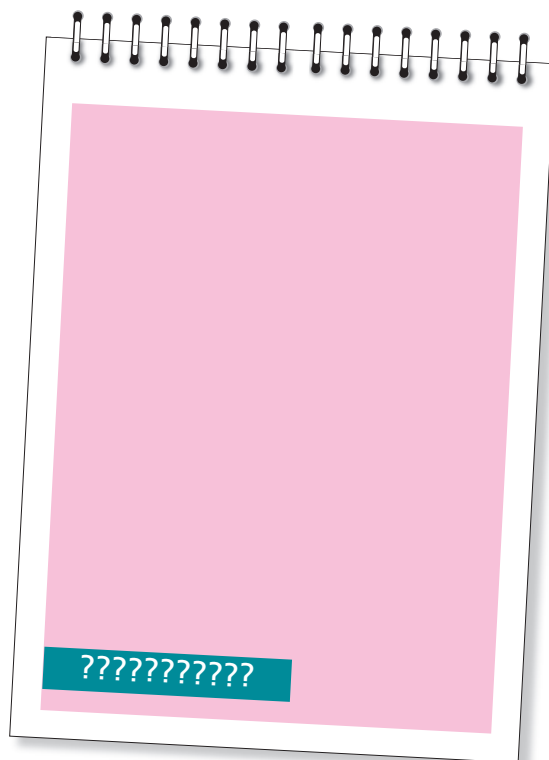
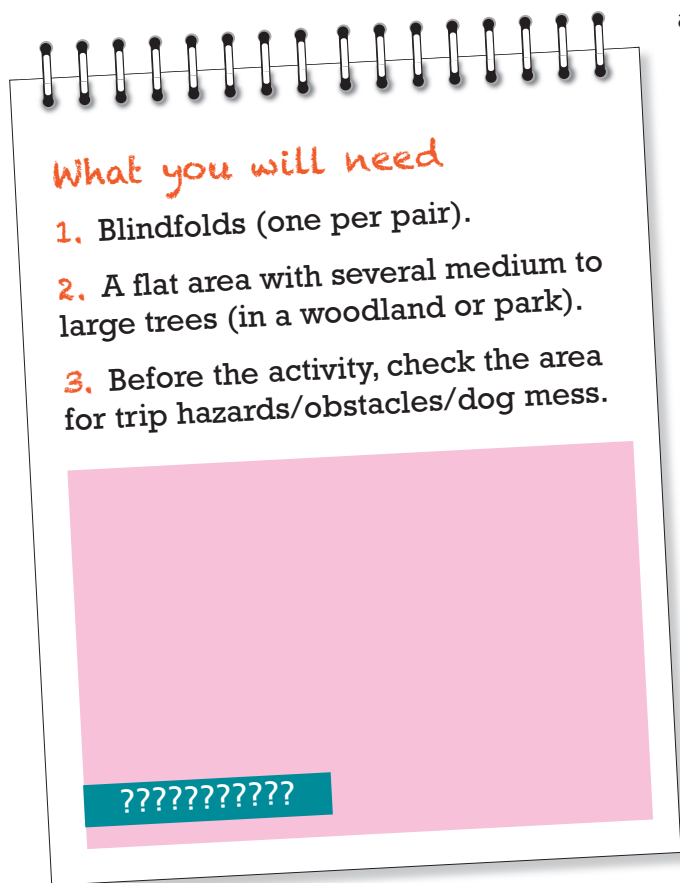
Tree Discovery!

Background information

Different trees have different types of bark. We can use the colour and texture of the bark to help us identify the species of tree.

Activity objectives

This activity aims to get children using their sense of touch rather than sight to explore a tree and to learn how bark can be used to identify different types of tree. It also aims to develop their interest in trees and looking after them.



Now turn over...



and play the game!





Tree Discovery!

How to play

1. Ask the children to get into pairs and hand out a blindfold to each pair.
2. Explain that they will be taking it in turns to “meet a tree”. Each pair decides who will be the leader first and who will be blindfolded.
3. Explain that by using the blindfolds, the children will have to use their sense of touch and smell instead of relying on their sight.
4. Get the leaders to gently spin their partner round to confuse their sense of direction then guide their partners to a tree, taking care to avoid low branches and obstacles underfoot!
5. Get the blindfolded partner to explore the tree by touch/smell etc. Leaders can help by asking them questions such as:
 - How does it feel – smooth/bumpy?
 - Are there any bits that stick out, feel unusual?
 - Does it have a smell?
 - Can you put your arms right around the trunk?

6. When the blindfolded partner is happy that they know what their tree feels and smells like, get the leaders to lead them away from the tree and spin them gently round a few times again.
7. Get the blindfolded partner to take off their blindfold and work out which tree was theirs by remembering what it felt and smelt like.

Follow up

1. Get the children to try and identify what their tree was from the bark.
 - ** You will need a tree identification guide to help with this.
2. If there are different tree species, look at them with the group pointing out the differences in the bark – texture/colour/smell.
3. Get the children to do bark rubbings using paper and crayons to see the different bark textures and patterns.
4. Combine with other activities such as the “Leaves Galore” activities or the “Tremendous Trees” game to gain a better understanding of how different parts of the tree function and how to identify trees from their leaves.

Information for Teachers

National Curriculum Links

Y1 POS Identify and name a variety of common wild plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.

Y2 POS Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats.

Y4 POS Explore and use classification keys to group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local environment.

