



# Wild Schools

## At Home

### Trees and Leaves

#### Study a leaf up close

Science

Use some card from the recycling pile to make yourself a leaf slide. Cut out a rectangle about 14 x 18 cm then fold the card in half (bringing the two shorter edges together). Now cut out the middle of each side of the card so that you have a window right through your slide.



Take the slide into your garden, the woods or your nearest trees and look for leaves. They don't have to be green leaves you can use fallen leaves from the ground too. Trap a leaf between the two windows of the slide and then hold it up to the light. What can you see? Are all leaves the same?

The lines that you can see are the veins of the leaf. Just like us, leaves have veins that they use to transport substances around the leaf such as water and sugar. The larger veins carry water from the stem into the leaf, while the smaller veins spread it across every part of the leaf

The pattern that you see of tiny veins is called netted venation as it looks like a net across the leaf. Each species of plant or tree has its own unique pattern of veins in its leaves.



### Make a leaf rubbing

*Science, Art and design*

Once you have studied your leaf, why not create a leaf rubbing to remember it by? Lay a piece of plain paper over the leaf and then rub over the paper with the side of a crayon to reveal the print.

You could use different leaves to create a pattern or picture. Alternatively you could find out what type of tree your leaf came from and write the name next to the rubbing.



### Make a leaf skeleton

*Art and design, Science*

Reveal the veins of your leaves by making them into skeletons that can be used for crafts, decorations or art. Find out how to do this [here](#).

### Investigate leaf litter



*Science*

Leaf litter is dead plant material such as leaves, bark, twigs and needles that has fallen to the ground. This dead material slowly decomposes and releases nutrients into the soil whilst also adding moisture by cooling the ground surface. Leaf litter provides food and shelter for earthworms, millipedes, as well as many different insects and spiders.

Gather up some leaf litter from under a tree and put it into a container such as an old ice cream tub. Gently and slowly move the litter around to see if you can spot anything moving then take a good look at everything you find. Don't forget to return the litter and creatures back to the cool floor afterwards.

