

Age
3-7

Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

Make an autumn nature mobile

Autumn is a season of change and the signs are everywhere in nature. With your family, go for a walk and see how many different signs of autumn you can spot. Don't forget to bring a collecting bag to gather your seasonal treasure! At home, make an autumn mobile to display your finds.

You will need:



A collecting bag



Autumnal items such as leaves, seeds, conkers and cones



A stick



String, wool or thread



Scissors (with adult supervision)

1 As a family, go for a walk in your local woodland or park.

Look up high at the beautiful autumn leaves. How many different colours can you see?

Look down low on the ground. Can you find something that is: prickly, soft, colourful, smooth, scented, hard, bumpy? What tree does it belong to?

Put your autumnal finds into your collecting bag.

! **Remember:** Don't collect fungi or berries – they could be poisonous!

2 When you get home, lay out your finds and explore each item together.

What does it look like? How does it feel? What shape and size is it? What is its purpose?

☆ Top tip: Try sorting your finds into piles with similar characteristics (such as colour or texture) or try ordering them by size.

3 With the help of an adult, cut your string into different lengths and carefully tie it around each item.

Take your stick and tie each length of string onto it.

Find somewhere high to hang your mobile and enjoy looking at the autumnal colours and textures on display!



Taking it forwards:

Trees need to disperse their seeds for more trees to grow. But how do they do it? Have a look at the seeds you've collected and ask: Does it have a case? Is it shaped to be able to roll? Is it light or winged to catch on the breeze?

Try growing a new tree by planting one of the seeds you found!