



Age
0-3

Autumn colour

With your child, choose an autumnal tree you can stand under together (let them lead).



When you arrive at the chosen tree, **ask your child to close their eyes.**
Ask them:

What can you hear?
What can you smell?
What can you feel under your feet?



Look up... What can you see hidden in the branches of the tree? **Act out some of the things that you see around you.**

- Flap your arms like a bird.
- Hold your arms high and sway like a branch in the wind.
- Bury acorns like a squirrel.



With your child, look closely under the tree together. Can you find a variety of colourful leaves? Look for yellow, brown, red, orange, green and purple.



Walk through the leaves together.
What sound does it make?



With your child, visit a variety of vibrant autumnal trees with different coloured and shaped leaves.
Group the leaves by colour and shape.



Feel the leaves and follow the veins with your finger.

Take a few leaves home to make leaf rubbings.



Touch the bark and roots together. Ask your child:
Does the bark feel rough or smooth?
How far do the roots reach?

Can you hear anything inside the trunk of the tree?

Can you see any patterns?
Trace them with your finger.

Did you know?

Look out for the distinctive leaves of the maple tree, which has five finger-like points. These trees are well known for their rainbow of different colours and their sap, which makes yummy maple syrup. Why not head down to the maple collection near the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art?

Age
3-7

Autumn colour

With your child, choose an autumnal tree you can stand under together.



When you arrive at the chosen tree, **ask your child to close their eyes. Ask them:**

What can you hear?
What can you smell?
What can you feel?



Look around you – what signs of autumn can you see?

Coloured leaves? Seeds? Animals?



Look up...

What can you see on the branches of the tree?

Can you see anything falling from the tree?



Look down...

What part of the tree is hidden under your feet?



Look at a variety of different trees together. What do you notice about their leaves?

Compare the shape, colour, texture and size.



Can you find a tree that's droppings its leaves?

Discuss why some trees lose their leaves in autumn and some don't.



Can you find a green, leafy tree that has:

- thick, shiny, waxy, smooth or spiky leaves
- needles
- cones
- berries

Did you know?

In Japan, observing seasonal change is a national pastime. In autumn, people take part in the annual tradition of *momijigari* (maple leaf hunting), seeking fiery forests of red maple trees and walking beneath the stunning foliage. Why not go on your own leaf hunt at our maple collection near the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art.



Age
7-14

Autumn colour

Choose an autumnal tree you can stand under.



When you arrive at the chosen tree,
close your eyes.

What can you hear?
What can you smell?
What can you feel under your feet?



**Look up – what signs of autumn
can you see?**

Can you see any animals or birds in
the tree?

Can you see anything falling from
the tree?

Can you see anything on
its branches?



**Look at a variety of different
trees together.**

Discuss together what you notice
about them. **Compare their
features, including:**

- their size and shape
- the pattern of their bark
- the texture and colour of their leaves

Discuss why some trees lose their leaves
in the autumn and some don't.



**Can you find a deciduous tree
that has:**

- thin, wide or flat leaves
- leaves with bumpy or raised veins
- blossom
- seeds



**Can you find an evergreen
leafy tree that has:**

- thick, shiny, waxy,
smooth or spiky leaves
- needles
- cones
- berries

Did you know?

Trees produce sugar from the sun's energy to live and grow (a process called photosynthesis). They use a green pigment called chlorophyll to absorb sunlight. In autumn, the green chlorophyll in the leaves of deciduous trees is broken down and recycled, revealing other brightly coloured pigments. The leaves eventually fall, and the trees reclaim valuable nutrients from them for the long winter months.