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**Tree Dressing Day**

**Write down anything you know about trees, including different types:**

**Why should we protect trees?**

Trees are vital.

As the biggest plants on the planet, they contribute to environmental and ecological value by providing oxygen, storing carbon, stabilising soil, conserving water and supporting wildlife; they also provide us, as humans, with the materials for tools and shelter.

Trees are an essential part of ameliorating the climate for all of these reasons but they also play a part in culture. For example, Tree Dressing Day takes part during the first weekend in December and is where different countries celebrate the value of trees in different ways.

In India, people wear brightly coloured clothes and cover trees with spices and flowers and dance around them. In Africa, people often meet together under big trees. In Japan, people tell the story of a camellia tree with silver roots, a golden trunk and branches hung with jewels.

Tree Dressing Day reminds us how important trees are and helps us to remember to look after them.

**In your own words, summarise why we should protect trees:**

### What is a tree?

Trees are the largest **organisms** on earth. They can grow to over 30 metres tall. They are formed of roots, a trunk, branches and leaves.

There are two types of tree:

- **Deciduous** trees like the oak, the sycamore, the weeping willow and the horse chestnut (or conker) all drop their leaves in the autumn
- **Evergreen** trees (like the pine, the fir and the cypress) have small, spiky leaves usually called needles. They keep their leaves all the year round.



### How does a tree grow?

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Trees need **sunlight, air, water** and **minerals** to grow. The roots of the tree go deep into the ground. The tree uses its roots to drink water from underground and suck up minerals from the soil. The roots also help the tree to stay up. The trunk holds up the branches and the leaves. Through **photosynthesis**, leaves use the sun's energy to make food.

### What can a tree do?

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A tree is a **habitat**. It gives many animals food and shelter. Birds and squirrels make nests in its branches. Squirrels eat the acorns that grow on oak trees. Owls live in holes in the trunk. Insects live under the bark on the trunk. Woodpeckers hammer into the bark to eat the insects. Other animals make their homes under the trees among the roots. This makes them safe from **predators**.



Lots of fruit grows on trees. Many types of nut grow on trees too. In the UK we can grow fruit like apples, plums, pears and cherries in our gardens or in orchards (which is like a fruit farm). Can you think of some fruit that you like eating?

Trees also keep our air clean. They take carbon dioxide (which can be a harmful gas) out of the air and give out oxygen which is a gas we need to be able to breathe.



### Other uses of trees

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Look around your classroom. You may see things made from wood. **Can you list all the things made of wood?** Wood can be made into paper. **Can you list all the things made of paper?**

We must remember that when we cut down a tree to make a table or pencils or to turn it into paper, we need to plant more trees to replace what we have taken to keep the Earth healthy.

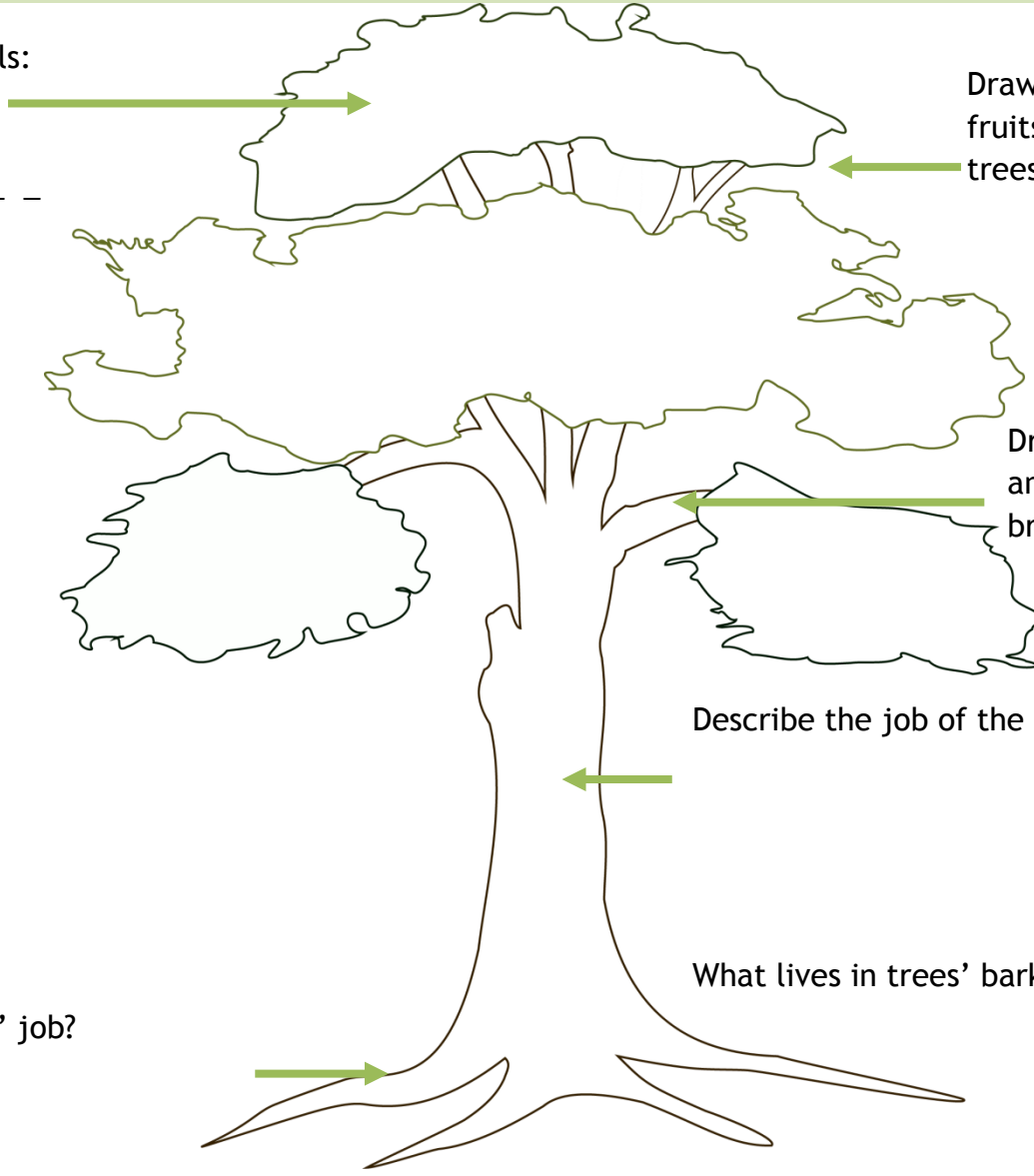
Remember, trees are vital. They give us food, shelter, wood and, most importantly, they keep our air clean. That's why we say thank you to trees on Tree Dressing Day.



Draw or write around the tree to show different facts:

Fill in the missing vowels:

L \_ \_ \_ \_ use  
\_ \_ \_ \_ y \_ \_ \_ \_  
to make \_ \_ \_ d. This  
c \_ \_ \_ \_ the \_ \_ r.



Draw and label three fruits that grow on UK trees.

Draw and label two animals that can live on branches.

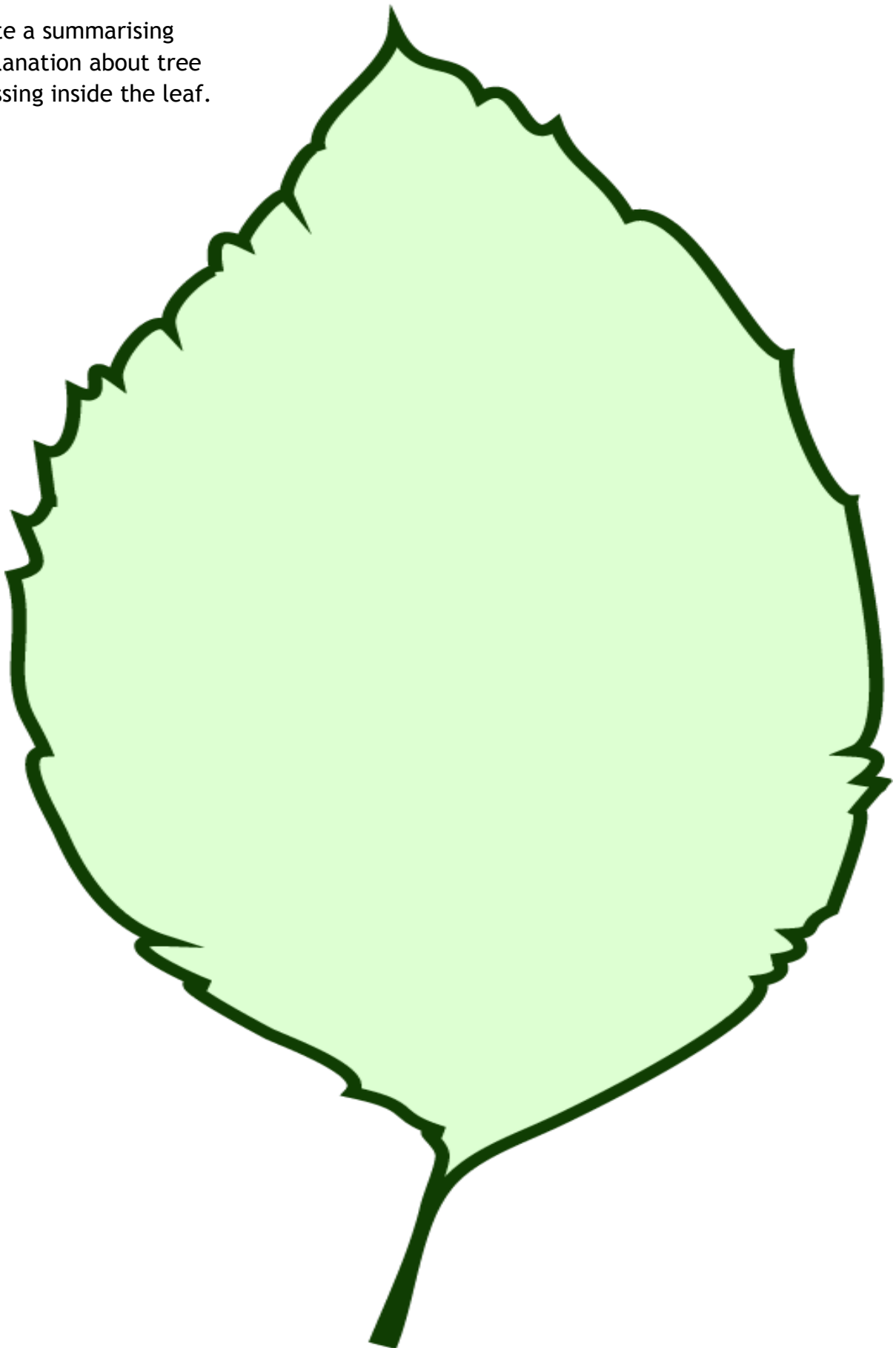
Describe the job of the trunk:

What lives in trees' bark?

What is the roots' job?

Write a thank you letter to a tree

Write a summarising explanation about tree dressing inside the leaf.



Leaf research challenge:

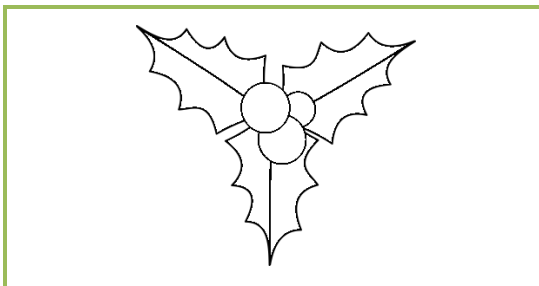
Using some books about trees or the [woodland trust nature detectives leaf ID guide](#), identify the leaves below, matching them up to their trees:



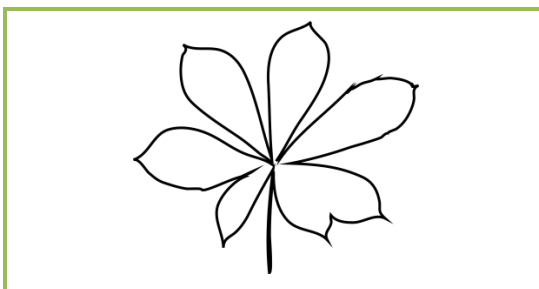
Horse chestnut



Oak



Beech



Holly



Sycamore

Colour deciduous leaves autumnal colours and any evergreen leaves green.

