

Discovering trees

What do we need to bring?

- Tree ID sheets from The Woodland Trust
- Clipboards, paper and pencils
- Tape measure

Activities

- Investigate which trees are growing at RHS Garden Bridgewater. The Woodland Trust have some great downloadable ID sheets for leaves, fruit, blossom and even twigs
- Try estimating and measuring the circumference of each tree. Work in small groups using your hands to help with estimations. Check with a tape measure and record results.
- If you explore the woodland you will find tree stumps. Look carefully at the rings on the stump if you can see them. You can use this to find out how old the tree is. Each dark ring is one year of growth. You can also work out how well the tree grew each year by looking closely at the width of the ring. A narrow ring means less growth. This can tell us about the climate and conditions throughout a tree's life.

Where can we do it?

- All over the garden but particularly in the woodland
- If the tree has a flowerbed surrounding it, please do not tread on it even if it looks like nothing is growing.

When is the best time of year?

Anytime

Follow-up activity

- Create a guide-book to trees at RHS Garden Bridgewater.
- Add pictures of the fruit and blossom and include information about the trees.
- Use the information you have gathered about the age and circumference of trees to create graphs and charts. Could you do the same with the trees on your school grounds?

