

***(Warning check for nut and hay allergies before starting these activities)**

The Nature of Science



Always wash hands after activities involving soil and natural objects.

Nature walk

Go on a nature walk to collect twigs, leaves, acorns, conkers etc. Where has the item come from? Take a photo of the object by the tree or bush, so you can identify them later. Look at tree types, size and girth. How many children does it take to stretch around a tree? Are all the trees the same girth? If you find a log, take a look at the ring patterns and explain that this shows us how old the tree is.

Make a piece of artwork while you are out, using the objects you find. Take a photo for display.

Look at the artist Andy Goldsworthy for some inspiration on natural sculptures.

Children can make mini sculptures when they get back, they may want to use a small tray with sand in it so they can lay or stand objects up.

Tally your collection

Have old plastic garden pots with numbered peg labels. When the children come back from their nature walk they can tally up their finds and count them into the pots and find the matching number peg.

Weigh your collection

Get a bucket balance and children can weigh out different things they have collected i.e. How many acorns weigh the same as two conkers.....more or less?

What's in the hay tray?

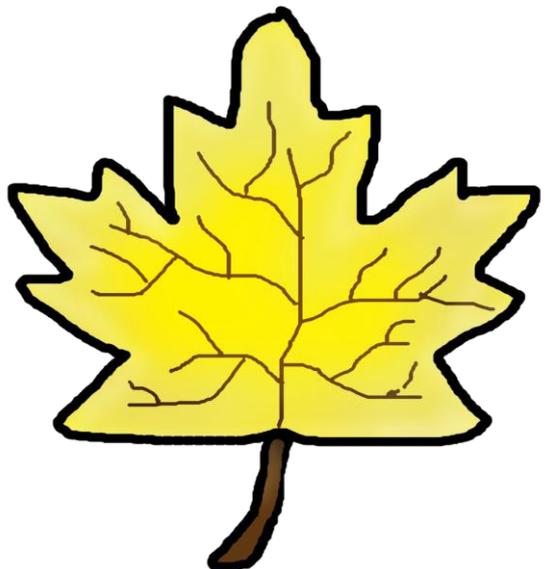
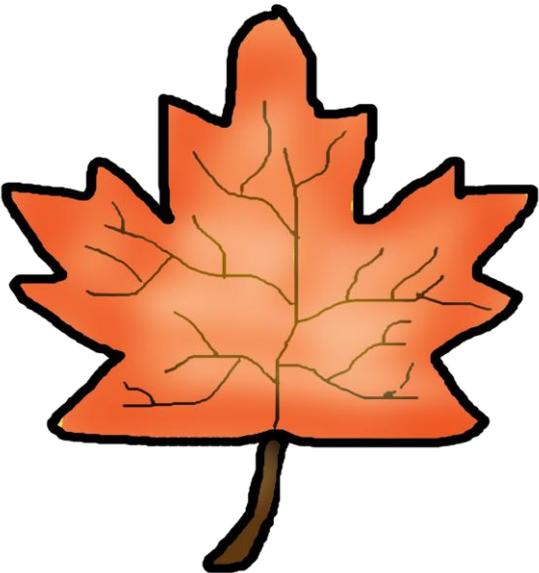
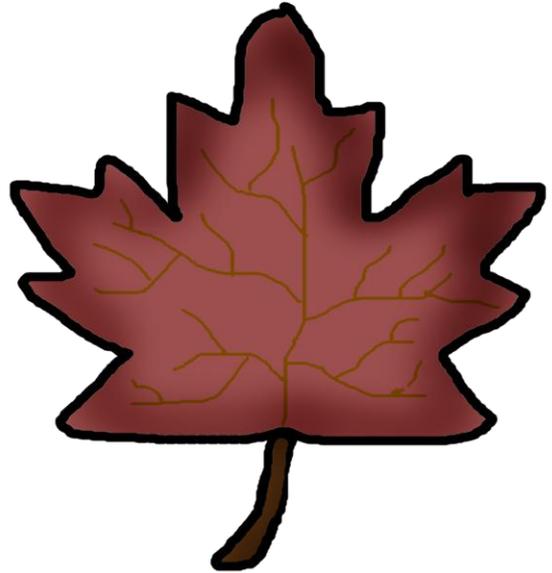
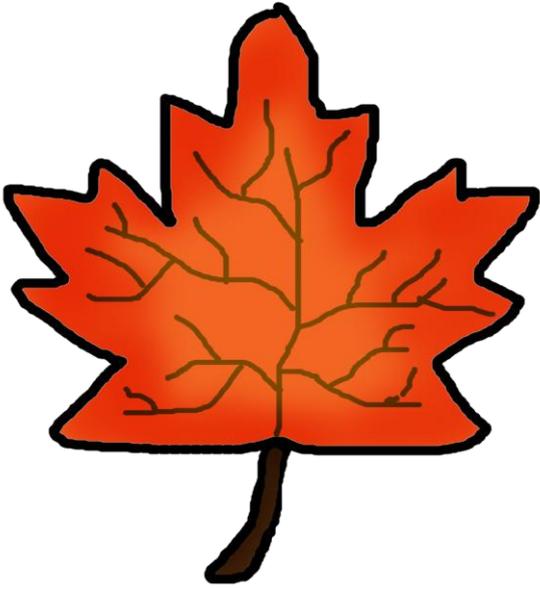
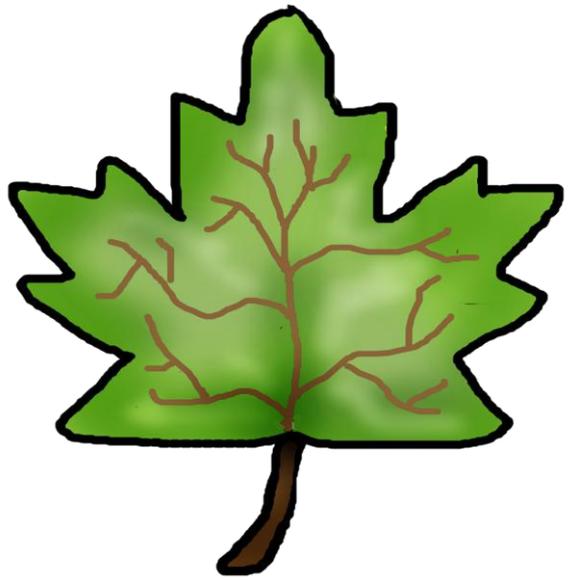
You will need: large plastic tray, or old baby bath. Hay from pet store or ripped up long pieces of newspaper, bulb compost, pebbles or gravel, selection of spoons, tongs, magnifying glasses, drawing equipment, gardening gloves, conkers, acorns, leaves, pine cones, large seeds, blind fold.

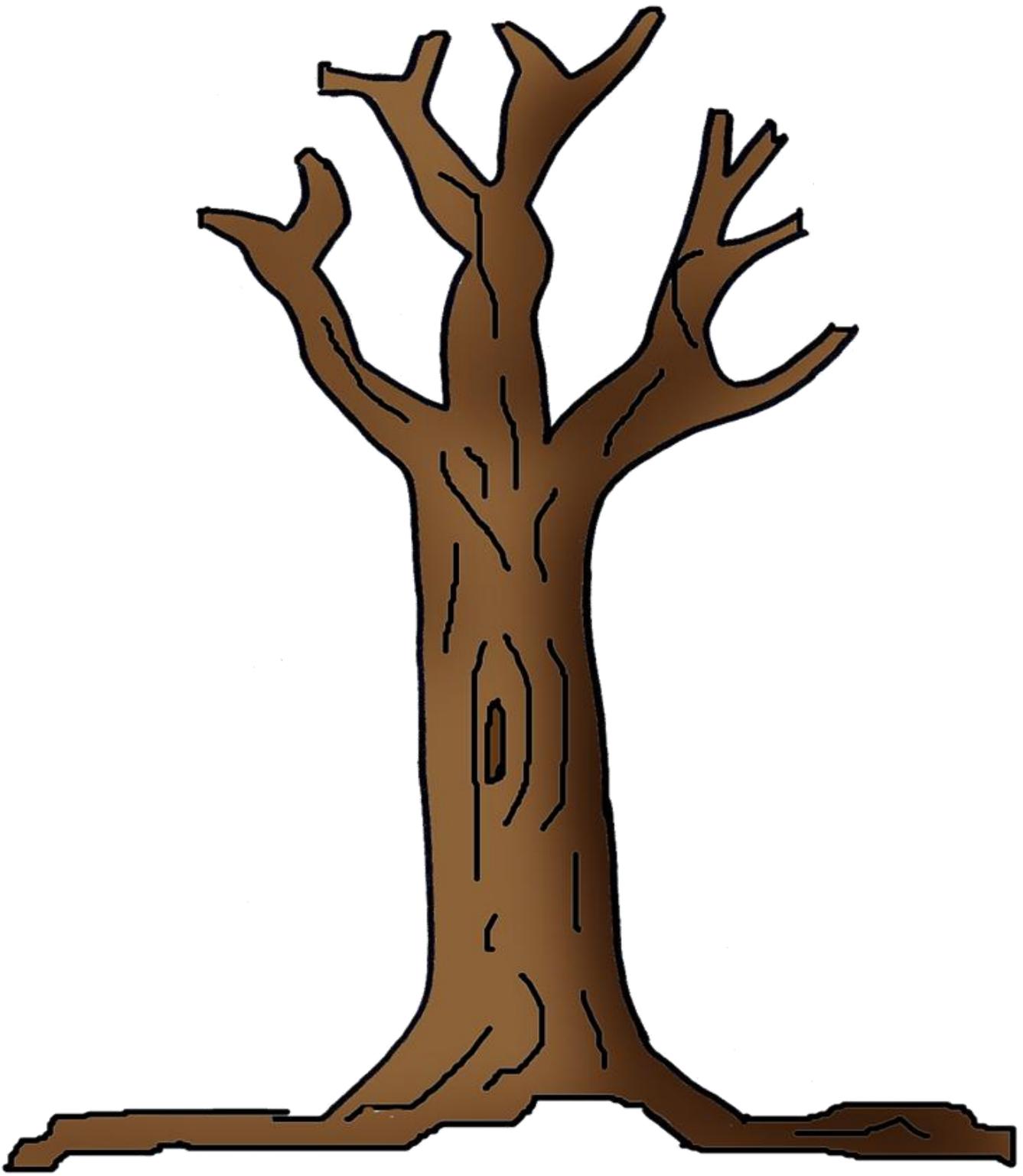
Make up a hay tray by putting the compost, pea gravel and pebbles on the bottom and covering it with the hay or paper hay. Bury the pine cones, conkers, acorns, etc into the hay.

Tell the children they are nature investigators going on a hunt for natural treasures. Encourage the children to investigate the tray using the scoops, spoons and tongs provided (*If you are concerned about using the compost put small gardening gloves on the children*). As they discover things help them to describe their finds and talk about their similarities and differences, shape, size, colour, smell and texture, Help the children to observe using their magnifying glasses, perhaps take macro shot photo's to see if they can identify them later.

Buried finds

Place natural objects in the hay tray (see above). Hold one item in your hand and show the child the object. Blindfold the child and see if they can find the matching object in the tray, by using touch only. Next have pictures of trees to see if they can match the object i.e. conker, leaf, pinecone to the right tree.





1 2 3 4 5 6

Leaf Songs

Use the leaves, tree and numbers included on the sheets, to sing the songs.

You may want to laminate and add magnets to the backs of the numbers and leaves.

Little leaves

6 little leaves so bright and gay,
Were dancing around on a tree one day.
The wind came blowing through the town, (Whoooooo, whooooo)
And 1 little leaf came tumbling down.

Repeat with 5, and so on.....

The Leaves are falling down *(Sung to the tune 'Farmer in the Dell')*

The leaves are falling down,
The leaves are falling down.
Red, yellow, green, and brown,
The leaves are falling down.

Autumn leaves

5 Autumn leaves, 5 and no more,
The caterpillar ate one, now there are four.
4 Autumn leaves, that's easy to see,
Along came a big storm, now there are three.
3 Autumn leaves, nothing much to do,
A big wind blew, now it's only two!
2 Autumn leaves, that's not much fun,
I'll rake this one up, now there's only 1.
1 little Autumn leaf left on the tree,
I'll watch the wind blow it down, this one's for me.

The leaves on the trees *(Sung to the tune 'The Wheels on the Bus')*

The Leaves on the trees are yellow and brown,
Yellow and brown, yellow and brown.
The leaves on the trees are yellow and brown, All through the town.
(Add different verses) The wind in the trees will blow them down...

**These songs could be a good starting point to look at seasonal changes. Look at a particular tree throughout the year and photograph its changes.*