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Trees through the Seasons

TOPIC: ART

THEME: Trees and the Past

Aim – To use your observation skills to notice and record through drawing, photography and craft the seasonal changes of trees.

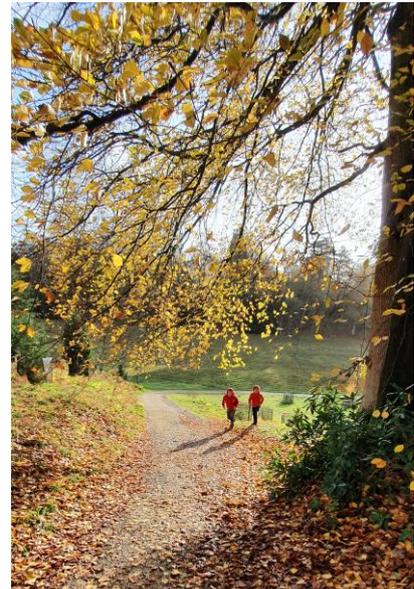
Introduction

Whilst trees often live for many more years than people, deciduous trees do change several times each year as their leaves bud, grow, change colour and fall. These activities look at that seasonal change, getting pupils to think about the seasons and how this affects the world in which we live.

They might like to consider which trees show the most change, which change first each year and if this is the same every year. They could relate their art to some traditional sayings such as:

'If the oak is out before the ash then we'll only have a splash; If the ash is out before the oak, then we'll surely have a soak'

They could even record the time the different trees come into leaf, make a note of the weather that year, and see if this saying holds true!



Weblinks

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Activity: How well do you know your trees?

One way to find out is to create art works based on them at different times of year. Here are some options:

- **Throughout the seasons** – take a photograph for each season from the same spot and notice the changes
- **In the spring** – search out the flowers on your trees and create a simple drawing of one of them then turn this into a collage.
- **In the summer** – find some leaves with prominent veins – a sweet chestnut is perfect. Carefully remove the leaf between the veins to create something that looks a bit like the skeleton of a fish. You can try to leave some areas untouched to create different patterns too.
- **In the autumn** – make bunting out of your leaves as they change colour and hang them outside your classroom window.
- **In the winter** – make silhouette pictures of trees in your grounds – this can be line drawings coloured in or cut out of paper and stuck to a background of a contrasting colour.

Note down the dates of when you take your photographs or create your art and see if the time that the seasons changes alters each year. The study of this change is called **phenology** and it helps us to see the impacts of climate change.



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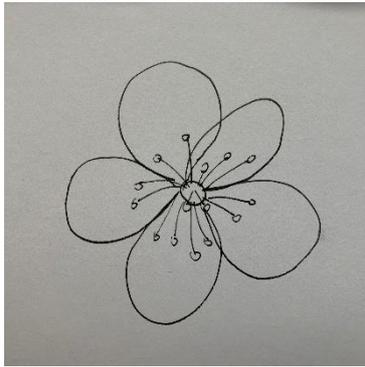
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