

Tree Detectives



Aim

- I can identify some common trees and explain why leaves are important.

Success Criteria

- I can identify some common trees by looking at their leaves.
- I can explain why leaves are green.
- I can explain why leaves are important.

Outdoor Explorer Safety Rules:

Stay in the safe zone
– **never wander off alone.**

Always stay within the boundary of the outside area that your teacher has marked with ribbons or cones.



Walk, don't run – a bump is not fun.
Look out for other children when you are moving around your outside area.

Look out for dangers all around
– **up high and on the ground.**
Look out for prickly bushes, low branches or other dangers in your outside area.



Outdoor Explorer Safety Rules:

Keep sticks low – if sticks go high, they can poke you in the eye!

Always carry sticks pointing downwards. You should move larger sticks or branches by dragging them behind you.



Unless you are shown – leave berries alone.

Never touch, pick or eat any berries or fungi as they could harm you.



Wash hands after play to keep the germs away!

Always wash your hands before eating and after being outdoors.



What Is the Difference between Summer Trees and Autumn Trees?

Look at the trees around you. Right now, most trees will have lots of green leaves. How will the same trees look in autumn?



In autumn, the leaves on deciduous trees, such as oak, beech and birch, will change colour and fall to the ground.

Evergreen trees, such as pines and conifers, will keep their leaves all year.

How Can Leaves Help Us to Identify Some Common Trees?

Leaves can be found in a variety of different shapes and textures. If you look carefully at the leaves on a tree, you can work out which type of tree it is.



Oak Tree



The leaves of an oak tree have wavy edges and can grow up to ten centimetres long.

Oak trees can grow to be very large trees. They produce acorns, which are the seeds for new oak trees.

A composite image featuring a close-up of a silver birch leaf on the left and a stand of silver birch trees in a forest on the right. The entire image is set against a bright yellow background.

Silver Birch Tree

Silver birch trees have white bark.

The leaves of a silver birch tree are light green with a toothed edge.

Beech Tree



The leaves of a beech tree are oval in shape and dark green in spring and summer. They have pointed tips and wavy edges and can grow up to nine centimetres long.



Hazel Tree

The leaves of a hazel tree are hairy and quite round in shape, with a pointed tip.

Hazel trees produce hazelnuts. Squirrels enjoy eating hazelnuts.

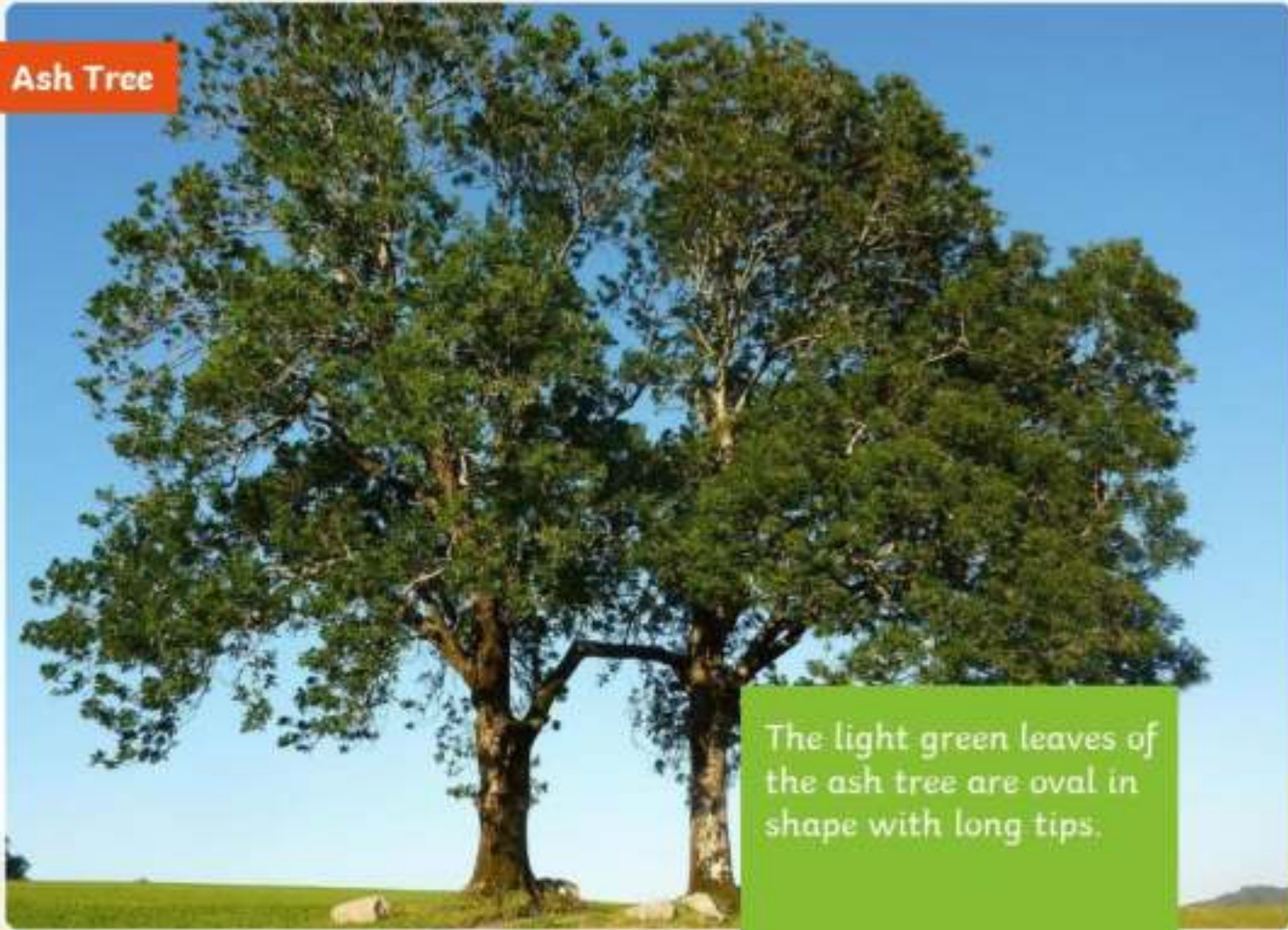
Horse Chestnut Tree



Horse chestnut trees have five to seven pointed leaves growing from one stem.

Horse chestnut trees can become very tall. They develop conkers in the summer.

Ash Tree



The light green leaves of the ash tree are oval in shape with long tips.

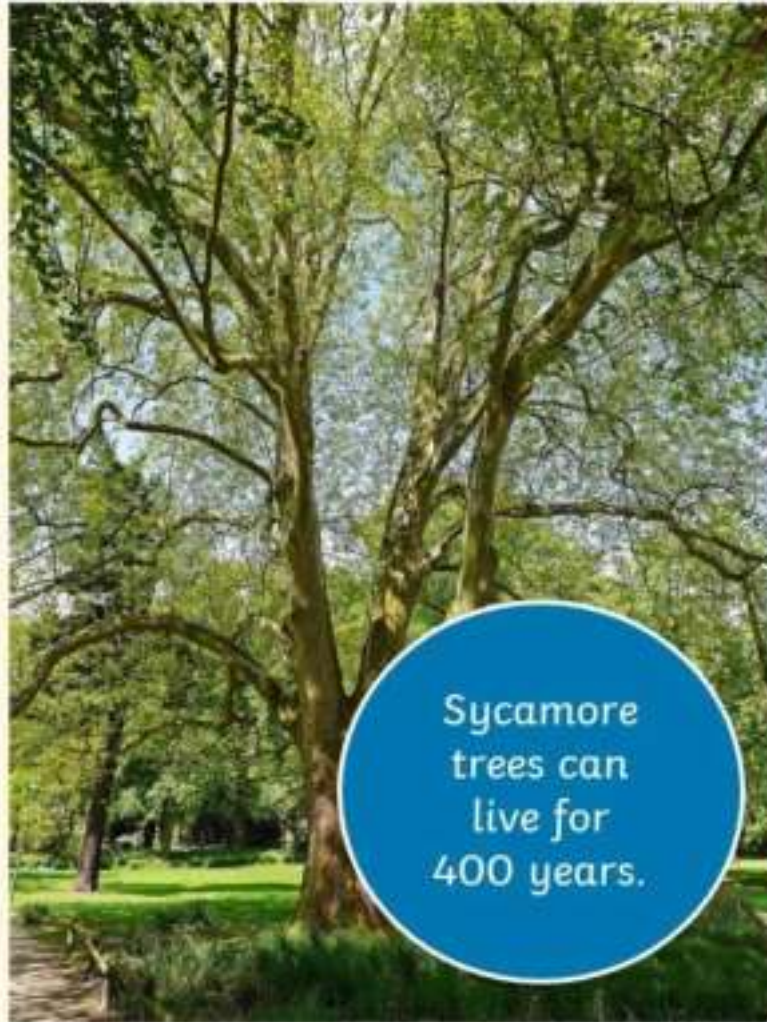


Holly Tree

Holly leaves
are dark green
and shiny.
Some are
very spiky.

The holly tree develops bright red berries, which are eaten by birds and other wild animals. **They are poisonous for people and pets.**

Sycamore Tree

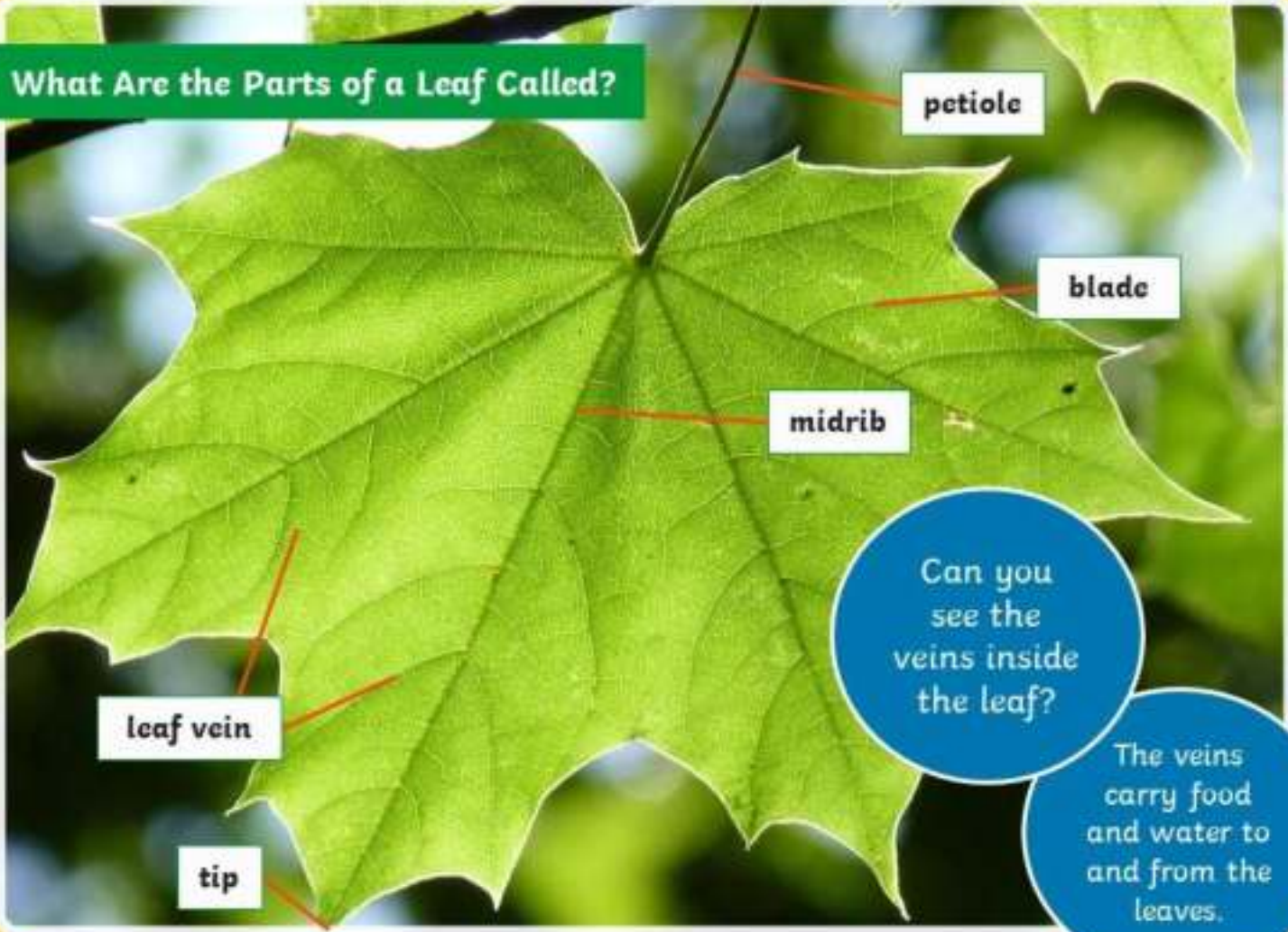


Sycamore
trees can
live for
400 years.

Pine Tree

Pine trees have straight, small needles with a pointed tip. The leaves can be dark green or greenish-grey. They grow in rows on either side of each twig.

What Are the Parts of a Leaf Called?



petiole

blade

midrib

leaf vein

tip

Can you see the veins inside the leaf?

The veins carry food and water to and from the leaves.

Why Are Leaves Green?

In summer, most plants and trees have green leaves. The leaves are full of an important green pigment called chlorophyll.

Chlorophyll allows plants to make their own food inside the leaves. This process is called photosynthesis. Using water, light and carbon dioxide in the air, this process helps plants to grow.



Why Do Some Leaves Change Colour in the Autumn?

In the autumn, leaves on deciduous trees turn red, yellow and purple. This is because these trees stop making food in autumn and there is less green chlorophyll in the leaves. However, there are other pigments in the leaves which give them their new colour!

Why Are Leaves Important?



Leaves provide food, shade and a habitat for many animals, birds and insects.



Leaves clean the air that we breathe! They use up harmful carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.

Can you find these different trees when you next go outside?



oak



birch



beech



Can you find these different trees when you next go outside?



hazel



horse
chestnut



ash



Can you find these different trees when you next go outside?



holly



sycamore



pine

