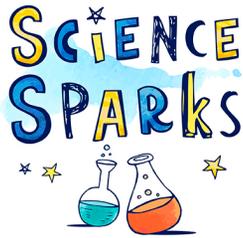
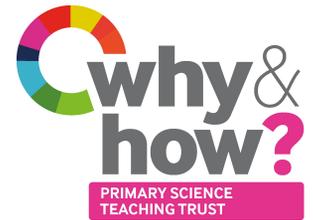


SCIENCE FUN AT HOME



Have some fun at home with these science activities from **Science Sparks** and the **Primary Science Teaching Trust**



BEFORE YOU START! Please read through this with an adult:

- * Make sure you have read the 'IMPORTANT NOTICE' on the back of this page.
- * If you have a space outside that you can use safely, then you can do the 'Try this outdoors' activity outside. Don't worry if not as you could still do it indoors.
- * Talk to your adult about sharing the science you have done and if they want to share on social media, please tag [@ScienceSparks](#) and [@pstt_whyhow](#) and use [#ScienceFromHome](#)

SCIENCE FUN FOR NATIONAL TREE WEEK

You will need

- * Pen
- * Paper

1 TRY THIS INDOORS ... Wood hunting

How many things in your home can you see that are made of wood? Write down or draw pictures of all the things you find. Look really carefully as you might notice that some objects are made partly of wood and partly of another material. And you might spot that some objects made of wood have been painted – how many of these can you find? Can you sort all the different objects on your list into groups?

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE?

Things to talk about ...

What kind of objects are made of wood? Why do you think they are made from wood? Do you know what kind of tree the wood has come from? What are the advantages and disadvantages of making things out of wood? What if the objects were made from another material like plastic or metal – would this be as good?



2

TRY THIS OUTDOORS ... How many different trees can you spot?

Next time you are walking somewhere – perhaps to the shops, to school or to the local park – count how many trees you see on the way. On the way back, have a closer look to see if you can identify how many different types of tree you have seen. Collect a fallen leaf from as many of them as you can and when you get home, see if you can identify which type of tree each leaf came from. Use this [leaf identification guide from the Woodland Trust](#) to help you work out which trees your leaves have come from.

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE?

Things to talk about ...

What shapes are the leaves you have collected? How are they similar? How are they different? What do you notice about the colours of the leaves?



3

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE?

People choose to make things out of wood because it is relatively cheap, not difficult to obtain, and it is easily shaped. Wood is a renewable material: we can plant more trees to replace what we use. Wood is often used in construction because it is strong and stiff, but also flexible, and it is lighter than other building materials like steel. Hardwoods usually come from deciduous trees like oak, walnut or ash, and they are good for outdoor use. Softwoods like pine or cedar usually come from evergreen trees and they are better for indoor use as they can easily rot if they get wet.

4

MORE ACTIVITIES YOU COULD TRY

HOW TALL IS A TREE? <https://www.science-sparks.com/how-tall-is-a-tree/>

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IDENTIFYING TREES AND DO A QUICK TREE QUIZ!

<http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/categorymenu/?cat=trees&name=Trees&col=D2232A>

LEARN ABOUT LOOKING AFTER TREES AND THE ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN THEM

http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activitymenu/?cat=tree_knowledge

BE A NATURE DETECTIVE WITH THE WOODLAND TRUST

<https://wowscience.co.uk/resource/woodland-trust/>

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Science Sparks and The Primary Science Teaching Trust are not liable for the actions or activity of any person who uses the information in this resource or in any of the suggested further resources. Science Sparks and The Primary Science Teaching Trust assume no liability with regard to injuries or damage to property that may occur as a result of using the information and carrying out the practical activities contained in this resource or in any of the suggested further resources.

These activities are designed to be carried out by children working with a parent, guardian or other appropriate adult. The adult involved is fully responsible for ensuring that the activities are carried out safely.