

National Tree Week is the UK's largest annual tree celebration, marking the start of the winter tree planting season (November to March each year). Each year group will spend this week learning how fundamental trees are to our lives and become involved in planting new trees and various projects.

What we will investigate

- How did National Tree week start?
- Why are trees important in the UK?
- What is the purpose of trees?
- Why are trees important in our life?
- What is the national tree of England?
- Name deciduous and evergreen trees in our Forest School.
- Understand woodland ecosystems.

Broad-leaved and coniferous woodland ecosystems

A broadleaf woodland contains trees such as Beech, Oak, Ash and Silver Birch. Broadleaves are usually from deciduous trees which are flat and grow in a variety of shapes and sizes. The layers within the woodland will alter according to the season. At full growth, the leaves create a large canopy over the woodland area allowing less sunshine. However, during the warmer and lighter weather when broadleaved trees are not in full leaf, high light levels help new life quickly emerge and plant life such as bluebells, wild garlic, nettles and a variety of anemones thrive, allowing them to flower and the production of seeds expand. This means through autumn and spring the ecosystem allows animals such as mice, rabbits and badgers to create their habitats living off the berries and plants.

Coniferous woodland ecosystems

Coniferous woodland is made up of conifers - these are usually known as evergreen trees and children often remember the saying 'forever green'. Coniferous trees have needles instead of leaves, and typical trees consist of spruce, pine and fir. Coniferous trees grow all year round rising at a similar rate to one another which creates a shelter canopy blocking out most sunlight. However, unlike the broadleaved woodland, there are no seasonal changes as conifers do not lose their leaves. Therefore, the taller the shelter becomes the less light reaches ground level. Due to this, the underlying structure of both flora and fauna may be dependent on intervention. There are many species of moss, fungi and insects such as beetles and moths that live here as the decaying matter provides an all year round food source. The vast majority of trees are planted for a purpose; new trees are thinned out to encourage growth from remaining conifers. Due to a constant fall of needles, the ground layer becomes covered which stops sunlight from reaching new growth and, again, unlike the broadleaved woodland, this means a lack of species will make habitats in this area.

Broad-leaved/Deciduous

English Oak
Sycamore
Chestnut
Beech
Ash
Hazel
Alder
Maple
Elder
Silver Birch

Coniferous/Evergreen

Leyland Cypress
Scots Pine
Yew
Holly
Holm Oak

All pupils will investigate, name and identify the leaf, seed or nut from each of the trees listed above.

