



DREAMING TREES 2024: THE ELEMENTS

Activities for Key Stages 1 and 2 / 5 - 11 years

INTRODUCTION



Dreaming Trees aims to encourage people of all ages outside to enjoy and rediscover the beauty of our parks and to think about the wonder of trees.

This pack includes a selection of our favourite activities for primary school age children.

The activities can be used by practitioners and families to support learning in key stages 1 and 2 of the curriculum.

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MEETING CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

This pack and our activities help to support the following areas of learning and development for the key stage 1 and 2 curriculum (primary school). We hope they are also fun to try at home!

Maths

- Counting, representing numbers with objects and basic adding and subtracting
- Geometry: position, movement and properties of shapes
- Measurement: compare and calculate using different measures

Science

- Tree identification and understanding of different parts
- Tree requirements for life and growth
- Natural material identification and physical properties
- Working scientifically: gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways
- Identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body

English

- Develop spoken language and vocabulary
- Develop writing skills

Physical Education

- Use the outdoors to develop fitness, balance and coordination

Music

- Experiment with instruments and sounds
- Listen with attention to detail and recall sounds

Art and design

- Use natural materials creatively
- Use different techniques

ALL ABOUT TREES

Different parts of a tree

Identify and describe the different parts of a tree. Go outside and find the different parts for yourself or look at pictures of trees in books. Look at different species of tree and notice any differences in the thickness, shape and colour of the parts.

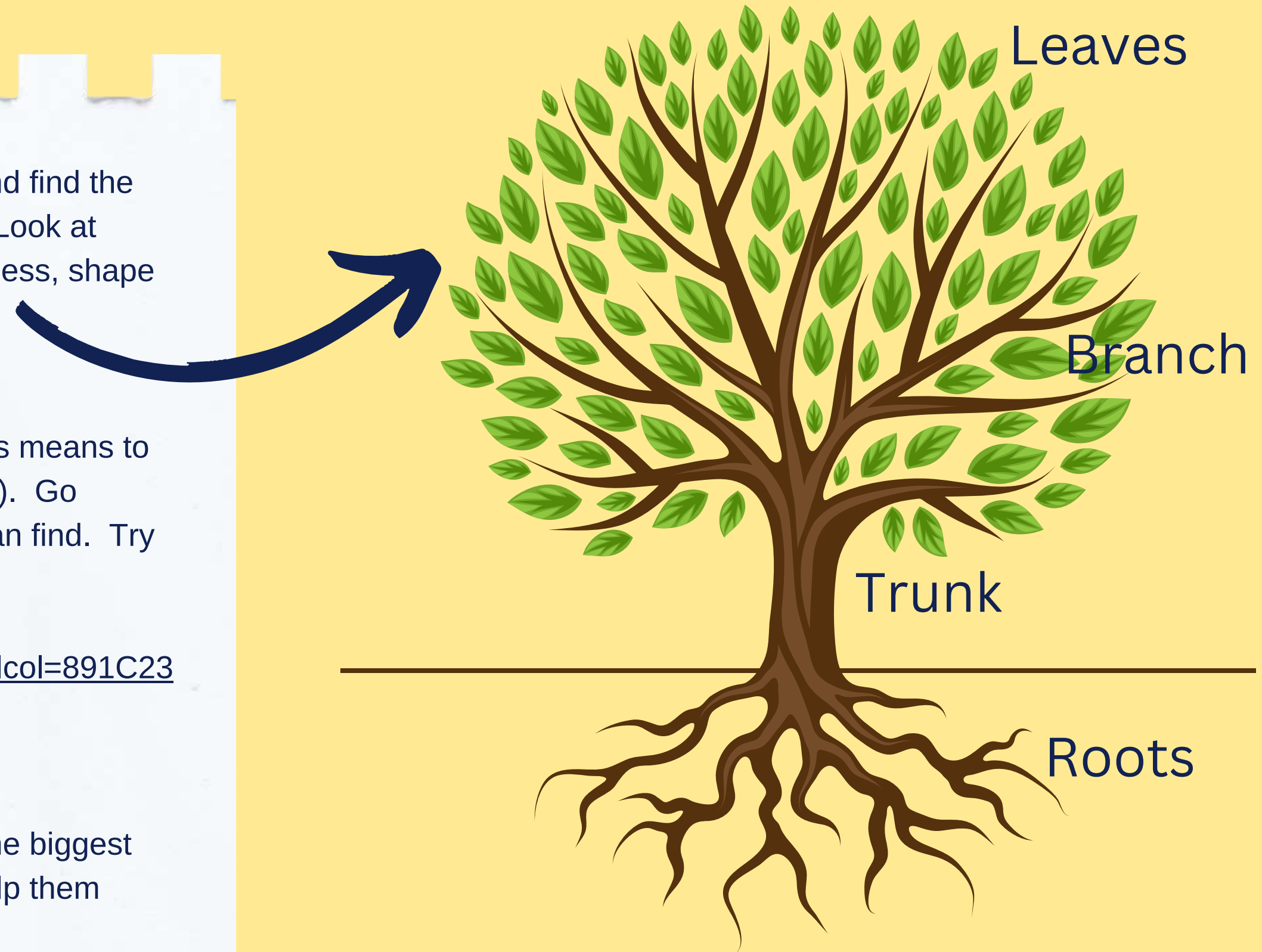
Deciduous or ever green?

Some trees lose their leaves every autumn (the word deciduous means to fall off) and some have leaves throughout the year (evergreens). Go outside and look at what deciduous and evergreen trees you can find. Try this online sorting activity from Tree Tools for Schools:

https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/labelling/?act=cls_deciduous_or_evergreen&id=0&col=D2232A&light=0&lcol=891C23&title=Deciduous+or+evergreen%3F

Mother Trees

Research has found that there are 'Mother Trees'. These are the biggest and oldest trees that are connected with the other trees and help them survive. Can you find one?



ALL ABOUT LEAVES

Leaf detectives

Using the poster from Trees for Schools, how many different species can you find?

https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_leaf_spotter_sheet.pdf

Take a walk and collect different leaves using a piece of double sided sticky tape on a piece of card. Use this as a book mark or stick the ends together to make a bracelet.

How many leaves did you collect and how many different species did you find?

Symmetry in action

Something is symmetrical when it has two matching halves. Leaves are a great example of this in nature. Use crayons to make some leaf rubbings and fold these in half to see how symmetrical your leaves are.

A leaf rubbing activity sheet is available from Trees for Schools:

https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_leaf_rubbing.pdf



ALL ABOUT STICKS

Twig spotter

Use the twig identifier from Trees for Schools and see how many different species you can find:

https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_twig_spotter_sheet.pdf

Stick skeleton

Collect different size sticks to make your own stick skeleton. Use the resource from Trees for Schools to check you have all the parts!

https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_twig_skeleton.pdf

You can also make your very own **Stick Man** and family using sticks, leaves and wool or string. You can link this to reading *Stick Man* by Julia Donaldson. See how many different tree species you can spot in the book or in the animation (available from BBC iPlayer).



WHAT CAN WE FIND?

A scavenger hunt is a great way to explore the outdoors, learn about the natural environment and engage the senses.

We like using an egg box to collect different natural treasures. You can make up your own or use the template from The Woodland Trust which challenges you to find something soft, smooth, sticky, fluffy, tickly and flaky.

Count how many things you find and see if any of your treasures are symmetrical (have two matching halves).

The Woodland Trust Egg Box Scavenger Hunt:

https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_egg_box_scavenger_hunt.pdf

Go outside and see if you can find all of the things shown on the Trees for Schools Winter Scavenger Hunt:

https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_winter_scavenger_hunt.pdf



WHAT CAN WE FIND?

Making your own nature collection bottle is a wonderful way to explore the outdoors and collect some of nature's treasure.

All you need is a plastic bottle. We suggest you put some small stones into the bottle first - finding stones that fit in the bottle is great for **problem solving and developing motor skills**.

Collect natural materials such as leaves and sticks. If you are carrying out this activity in a group, you can compare the bottles, look for different materials and different colours and talk about what you have found.

Nature is also filled with lots of things that we can use to make noise.

Collect things to make your own **musical instrument**. You could fill a plastic bottle with small stones, sticks or acorns and find some sticks to bang on the ground or against a tree. Create simply rhythms and ask a partner to repeat them. Try using different materials to see if the sounds change.



WHAT CAN WE HEAR?

Nature is filled with different noises if we take the time to listen.

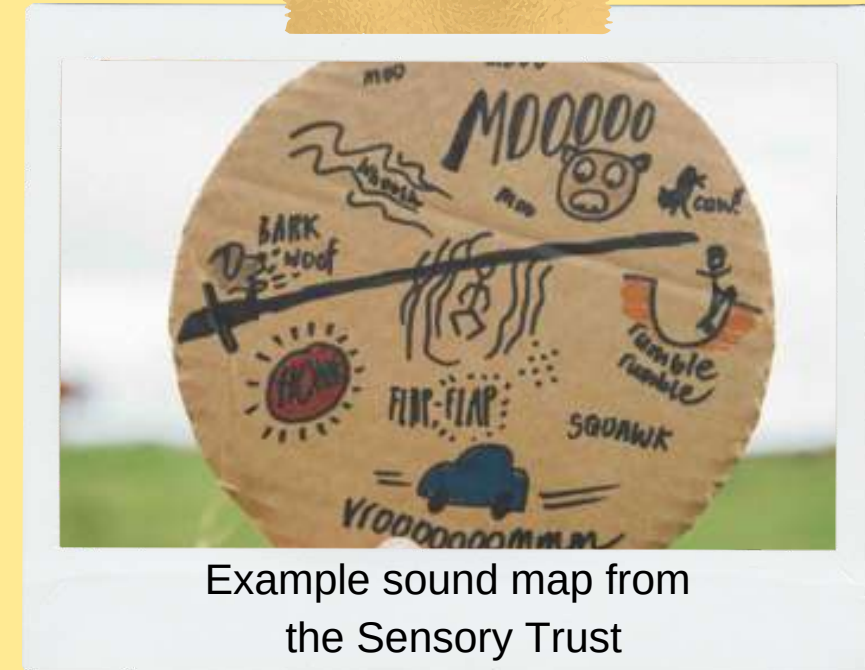
Go outside and find a comfortable place to stand/sit for a few minutes. If the weather doesn't support outside learning, sit by an open window.

You can draw pictures to represent the sounds you can hear or you can make a **sound map**:

Put an 'X' in the centre of a piece of paper to show where you are. Stay still for 5 minutes and listen to the sounds around you. Mark on the paper the sounds you can hear and where they are coming from. Mark them close to the X if they are close by or towards the edge of the paper if they are further away. You can draw, write or colour the sounds you can hear.

You could also think about what sounds are permanent and which are passing and what sounds are natural and which are man-made. This brings attention to the sources of sound and our influence in the environment.

You can use **mathematical vocabulary** to describe position and direction of the sounds.



Example sound map from the Sensory Trust



A sound map using a blank piece of paper, Royal Botanical Gardens

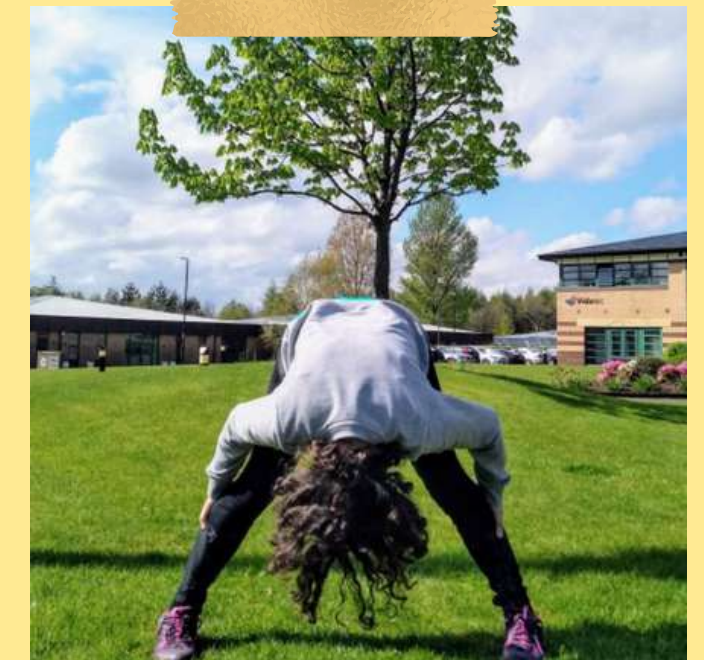
HOW TALL IS A TREE?

There are **different ways to measure** the height of trees. Think scientifically and try some of the different methods. **Record and present your data** to see if the different methods created different results. You can also **make predictions on future growth**.

Measure a tree using a stick: Forest Commission resource:
<https://www.forestryengland.uk/video/calculating-tree-height>

10 ways to measure a tree, compare the results from each method:
https://outdoorclassroomday.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/lesson-activity_ways-to-measure-a-tree-1.pdf

Future growth predictions: on average a tree grows approximately 2.5cm per year in girth. Measure how big the tree is all the way around and divide this by 2.5 to estimate its age. Next, predict the girth of the tree for the next 5 years. What will the tree's girth be when you finish primary school?



You can also measure how big the tree is all the way around (the tree's girth).

In a group, stand with your arms outstretched. Guess how many people are needed if you stand around the tree with outstretched arms, touching one another's fingertips.

WHAT CAN WE MAKE?

Taking playdough out on a nature walk helps you to **explore textures** by taking imprints of tree bark, sticks and leaves and investigating smooth and rough surfaces like tree bark. In addition to helping to develop motor skills, this is a great activity for **developing vocabulary** as you describe the imprints and natural textures.

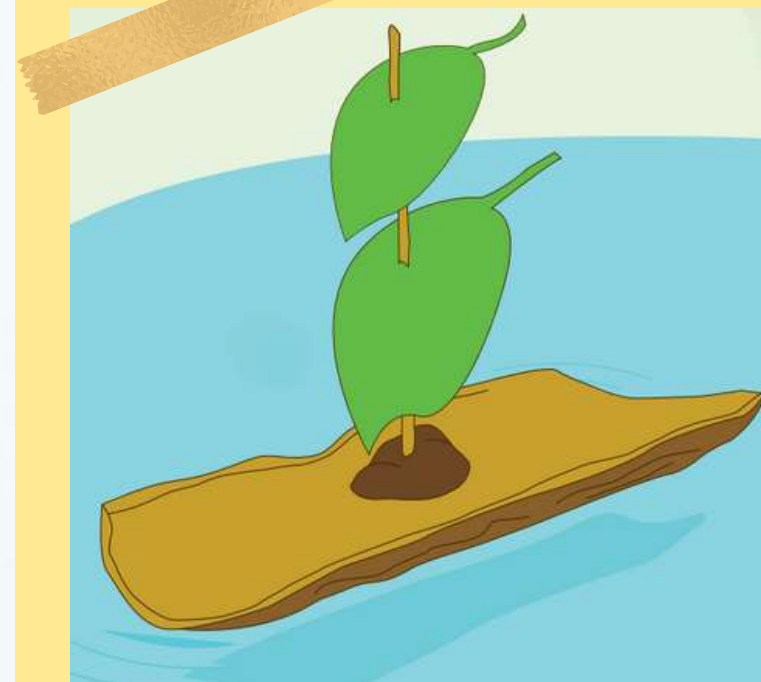
You can also collect natural materials to make faces (try a portrait!) or patterns in the playdough. **Please remember to take all playdough back home/to school with you.**

Collect natural materials and use your imagination! Here are some of our favourite ideas:

- Who can build the tallest stick tower?
- Can you make arrow shapes from sticks for your friends to follow?
- Find the perfect stick for a magic wand or journey stick
- Create a stick mobile and use wool or string to make shapes from the sticks and natural materials that you find
- Make a stick raft by tying sticks together with long grass or string. Does it float?

Visit Trees for Schools for more ideas:

https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activitymenu/?cat=outdoor_makes



Make your own play dough

Mix together: 8 tbsp plain flour, 2 tbsp table salt, 60ml warm water and 1 tbsp vegetable oil.

See this BBC video for more information:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/homemade-playdough/z4tdd6f>



WORKOUT WITH THE TREES

Take your PE lesson outside and workout with the trees!

1. Warm up with some arm swinging and brisk walking.
2. Find 2 trees – run between them, touching each one, 10 times.
3. Find a big tree and put your hands on it at about shoulder level. Do 10 press ups against the trunk, keeping your legs straight.
4. Face a tree, leaning your hands on it. Curl up one foot behind you while keeping the other leg straight. Repeat 10 times with each leg.
5. Now lift one leg in front of you, bending your knee. 10 times on each leg.
6. Jump as high as you can and touch the trunk - how high can you reach? Repeat 10 times.

Can you make up your own exercises?

[Thank you to Learning through Landscapes for this activity.](#)



TREE SURVIVAL

Trees need sunlight, food, water, and nutrients to survive.

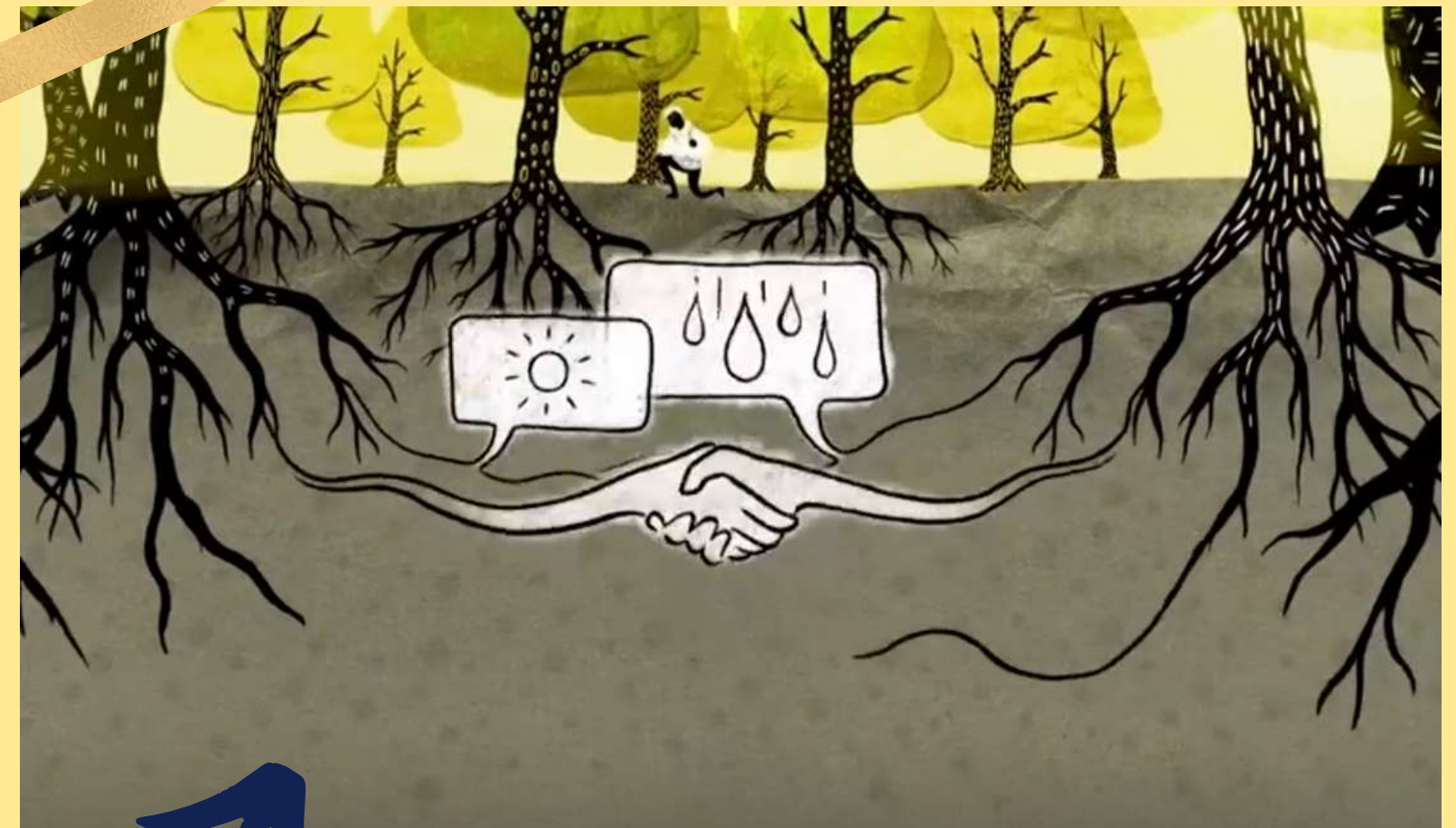
Trees make their own food through **photosynthesis**, using energy from sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to create sugar that is used by the rest of the tree.

Photosynthesis results in trees releasing oxygen into the air we breathe.

Trees help to create a lot of the oxygen we need. They also clean the air by removing pollutants and cool the air by providing shade.

Trees share sugars, water and nutrients with other trees using a **Wood Wide Web** made up of fungi that grow around and inside their roots. Using this system trees 'talk' to each other, sharing resources and messages to create a community.

Watch this two minute video from the BBC 'How trees secretly talk to each other': <https://youtu.be/yWOqeyPIVRo>



TREE-MENDOUS TREES!

Trees are great for people! Here are just a few of the many reasons why trees are tree-mendous:

1. Trees provide oxygen for us to breathe and they clean our air
2. Trees help to build healthy soil by providing fallen leaves and twigs which are broken down by mini beasts
3. Trees provide shade and help to cool the air
4. Trees provide shelter, shade and food for wildlife
5. Trees can help to reduce the risk of flooding as their roots take up water from the soil
6. Trees provide us with lots of different foods such as apples
7. Spending time outside is good for our health and wellbeing

Take the 'Why do we need trees?' quiz from Tree Tools for Schools:

https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/quiz/?act=quiz_why_trees_are_great&id=0&col=D2232A&light=0&title=Why%20do%20we%20need%20trees?



Why do we need trees?

Trees are amazing! We really couldn't live without them. Start the quiz to discover why they're so important.

DESCRIBE DREAMING TREES



Look at photos taken of the Dreaming Trees illuminations in Howard Davis Park in February 2023.

Talk about what you see, for example the different colours and textures. Identify all the **adjectives** you use in your descriptions.

Write a **story or poem** with the title 'Dreaming Trees'.

WHAT ARE TREES DREAMING OF?



Over the winter, we can think of trees as sleeping as they conserve their energy and wait for spring.

If trees are sleeping, perhaps they dream.

What do you think trees dream of?

Please share your ideas with us. Your ideas can be written down or shared as pictures.

Send an email with the title 'Dreaming Trees' to dfi@gov.je

We may share your ideas at the Dreaming Trees illuminations and in our communications. All ideas we share will be anonymous.

Thank you and enjoy Dreaming Trees 2024!

TREE JOKES

What did the tree wear to the pool party?

Swimming trunks!

What did the little tree say to the big tree?

Leaf me alone!

What kind of tree can fit into your hand?

A palm tree!

What is every tree's favourite shape?

A tree-angle!

How do bees travel to trees?

They take the buzz!

DREAMING TREES 2024

gov.je/dreamingtrees

dfi@gov.je

