

Activity: Bark Rubbing

Kit needed: Crayons (preferably chunky) paper/ notepad and pencils, tree/ bark identification sheet

Group/ family size: 1+

Age Group: 2+

Location: this can be done in the garden, local park or woodland, anywhere with trees

Learning about: textures and shapes of bark and trees

Instructions:

As a family group go into the woods/ open space and find a tree. Hold your paper against it (you may need extra help) and use the flat length of your crayons to rub the bark texture through onto the paper. You can try this on lots of different trees with lots of coloured crayons and then use your pencils to draw round the rubbings and make pictures. This activity can be adapted for older children to learn to identify trees by their bark.

Additional comments:

This is a great opportunity for children to immerse themselves in nature and explore things from different perspectives by texture.

When you are bark rubbing on trees avoid private property/ land unless you have the landowner's permission.

Be careful not to disturb wildlife or destroy habitats when bark rubbing.

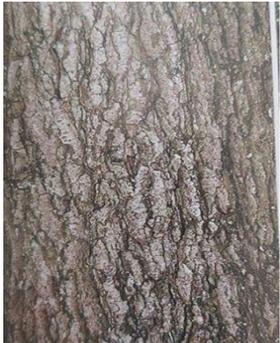
Use additional resource guides to identify which trees you are bark rubbing.

Watch out for stinging insects, brambles and nettles

In the chart below are pictures of the bark of 10 of the UK's most common trees, can't find yours? Take a picture and use the internet to research it when you get home

**Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Family Outdoor Education Pack**



<p>English Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)</p>	<p>Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)</p>	<p>Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)</p>	<p>Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)</p>	<p>Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)</p>
	 <p>©Shuttershock</p>	 <p>© WildfoodUK</p>		 <p>©Shuttershock</p>
<p>Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>)</p>	<p>Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)</p>	<p>Willow (<i>Salix</i>)</p>	<p>Sweet Chestnut (<i>castanea sativa</i>)</p>	<p>Field Maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>)</p>
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Photos: © Collins Complete Guide to British Trees

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