


















Woodland Identification at Forton Forest School

Name	Image	Description	Uses & Mythology
Oak Tree		<p>Curvy leaves, no stalks. Bark has knobbly ridges. Tall rounded fruit called acorns ripen in October, sitting in cups on long stalks.</p>	<p>Hardwood used for building, furniture, barrels etc. Bark, leaves, acorns all used for medicine eg healing wounds, diarrhoea. Kings and emperors wore crowns of oak leaves. Weddings were conducted under oak trees.</p>
Ash Tree		<p>Each leaf is made of several small leaflets. Has purplish flowers in April and papery fruits in October. The winged fruits are called keys.</p>	<p>It is one of the toughest hardwoods so the wood of choice for tools, handles and furniture. Thought to have medicinal and mystical properties. Known as the Tree of Life in Norse mythology and the Druids Wands' were made of it.</p>
Willow Tree		<p>Slender, toothed leaves are shiny, dark green above, and blue-green underneath. Twigs break off easily and cleanly with a sharp crack.</p>	<p>Branches are bendy and used to make baskets, fences etc. Willows were seen as trees of celebration in biblical times but this has changed and they are often associated with sadness and mourning. In English folklore, a willow tree is believed to be quite sinister, capable of uprooting itself and stalking travellers.</p>
Beech Tree		<p>Oval wavy leaves turn copper brown in autumn. Has small green flowers in April-May. Ripe triangular seeds drop from bristly cases in October.</p>	<p>Used for furniture, utensils and fuel, also as a medicine to relieve swelling. Used as a coffee substitute in hard times.</p>
Hawthorn Tree		<p>Shiny dark leaves with deep gaps grow on thorny twigs. Clusters of small, white flowers in May and dark red berries from August.</p>	<p>The hawthorn has been associated with fertility and love in folklore. It is often featured in rituals and celebrations related to May Day and Beltane. In Irish tradition, it is considered bad luck to bring hawthorn blossoms inside a home. Its wood was used to make maypoles.</p>

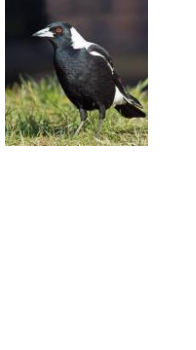
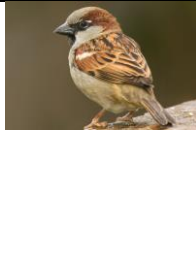
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<p>Bird cherry Tree</p>		<p>Dull green oval leaves have finer 'teeth' than wild cherry. Drooping tails of small, white flowers in April. Birds eat the bitter, black cherries.</p>	<p>Called the bird (avium) cherry because of the role birds play in eating the cherries and dispersing the seed.</p>
<p>Sycamore Tree</p>		<p>Large spreading tree with leathery leaves. Its v-shaped fruits have papery wings to help them twirl and catch the wind as they fall.</p>	<p>Sycamore timber is hard and strong, pale cream and with a fine grain, and is excellent for carving. It is used to make furniture and kitchenware, such as ladles and wooden spoons as the wood does not taint or stain the food. In Christian tradition, sycamore is associated with the story of Zacchaeus who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus.</p>
<p>Daisy Plant</p>		<p>Small plant with rounded leaves at base. Common on lawns. Flowers close at night and in rain to keep pollen dry. January-October.</p>	<p>Also known as 'marguerite' which means pearl. 'He loves me, he loves me not' was repeated while pulling off its petals one by one. The last petal and phrase were supposed to tell the truth.</p>
<p>Stinging nettle Plant</p>		<p>Its toothed leaves are covered with stinging hairs. Dangling green-brown flowers. Common in many places. June – August.</p>	<p>'Tender hearted grasps the plant & it stings you for your pains Grasp it like a man of mettle & it soft as silk remains'.</p>
<p>Dandelion Plant</p>		<p>Common weed with a base of toothed leaves. Look for downy white 'clock' of seeds. March-June.</p>	<p>Name derives from the French 'dents de lion' Lion's teeth possibly because of the jagged edges. Thought to have many medicinal properties. Sometimes called 'wet the bed'</p>
<p>Red clover Plant</p>		<p>Reddish-purple or pale pink flowers. Groups of 3 oval leaves. Common in grassy places. May-October.</p>	<p>Thought to be lucky to find a plant with 4 leaves instead of 3. 'In clover' used to mean good fortune.</p>

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<p>Snowdrop Plant</p>		<p>Nodding white flowers smell like honey. Dark green leaves are long and flat. January-March.</p>	<p>Used as a symbol for purity. Also known as Candlemas Bells and White Ladies.</p>
<p>Wild pansy Plant</p>		<p>Bright flowers can be any mixture of purple, yellow and white. Oval leaves. Bare ground and farmland. April-October.</p>	<p>In Roman mythology, the wild pansy was struck by one of Cupid's arrows. As Cupid is the god of affection and love, the flower's juice is supposed to act as a love potion.</p>
<p>Bluebell Plant</p>		<p>Deep violet-blue, bell shaped, 6 petals with turned-up tips – can be white and pink. Common in woodland and alongside hedgerows.</p>	<p>Sap was used to bind books and glue feathers onto arrows. Their bulbs were crushed to make starch to stiffen ruffs and cuffs, stop bleeding or increase weeing. Sometimes called 'a fairy flower' - malicious fairy that got people confused. Bringing them indoors was thought to cause something terrible to happen.</p>
<p>King Alfred's Cakes Fungi</p>		<p>The fruiting bodies of this fungi form hard rounded dark brown balls that turn black with age. Usually found on fallen or dead branches of ash and beech trees.</p>	<p>Named after King Alfred's poor baking skills when he was trying to escape from the Vikings. Also known as coal fungus, carbon fungus' It makes a good fire-lighting material</p>
<p>Jelly Ear Fungi</p>		<p>They look like velvety ears growing off decaying branches in damp, shady conditions especially on beech and elder trees.</p>	<p>Also known as Judas' ear because Judas Iscariot hanged himself on an elder tree. Popular in Chinese cooking. Thought to have medicinal properties for the eye or throat.</p>
<p>Chicken of the Woods Fungi</p>		<p>Thick, fleshy bright yellow with bands of orange when young. Soft to touch and found on the trunks of trees like oak and cherry</p>	<p>Hairy fungus beetles and deer love it</p>

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<p>Squirrel Mammal</p>			<p>Grey squirrel does not have tufts above the ears like the red squirrel, bushy tail has several colours in it.</p>	<p>Thought of as a mischief maker but also a messenger in folklore.</p>
<p>Fox Mammal</p>			<p>Russet red fur, pointed ears and bushy tail.</p>	<p>Thought of as clever but cunning.</p>
<p>Robin Bird</p>			<p>Brown back, white belly, orange breast. They build cup-shaped nests close to the ground.</p>	<p>Breast colour sometime related to blood or fire eg protecting the baby Jesus from fire or pulling a thorn from the crown of thorns to diminish Christ's pain.</p>
<p>Magpie Bird</p>			<p>With its noisy chattering, black-and-white plumage and long tail, there's nothing else quite like the Magpie in the UK. When seen close-up, its black plumage reveals a purplish-blue iridescent sheen to the wing feathers and a green gloss to the tail. Magpies seem to be jacks of all trades – scavengers, predators and pest-destroyers. Non-breeding birds will gather together in flocks.</p>	<p>They seem to be interested in unusual objects and have sometimes been branded as thieves. We have a rhyme to remind us of some of the superstitions: 1 for sorrow, 2 for joy, 3 for a girl, 4 for a boy, 5 for silver, 6 for gold, 7 for a secret never to be told.</p>
<p>House Sparrow Bird</p>			<p>The male house sparrow has a grey crown and black bib that goes down the chest, coupled with chestnut-coloured nape. Its wings are striped in black, grey, and buff hues. Females are less colourful, with a pale brown feathers, and no black bib.</p>	<p>The House Sparrow holds cultural significance in various traditions. Its presence is often associated with companionship and home symbolizing familiarity and adaptability.</p>

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