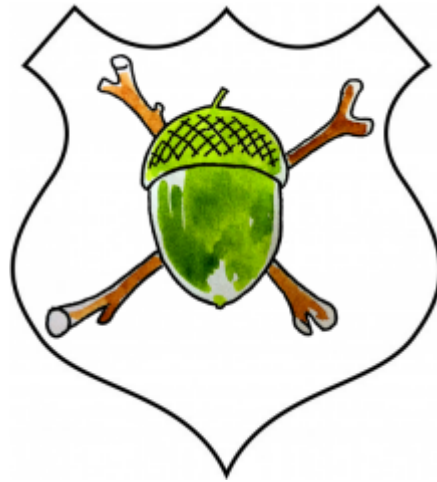


Tree coat of arms

Many years ago, knights used coats of arms on their armour and clothes to identify themselves. The objects on their coats of arms were chosen carefully to represent their character.



Nowadays, many schools, football teams and cities use coats of arms too.

Find a tree that you think is special and design a coat of arms for it. Use mud to make a shield on the tree's trunk and stick items on it, or make the coat of arms at the tree's roots.

What characteristics will you choose to represent your tree? Here are some common meanings that have been linked to some trees:

Oak	=	bravery	Hazel	=	playfulness
Holly	=	truth	Apple	=	health
Walnut	=	cleverness	Ash	=	wisdom

Create



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Woodland adventure booklet



This booklet was made by staff at the Woodland Trust and Westonbirt Arboretum

The Woodland Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (2949344) and Scotland (SC038886) at Kempton Way, Grantham, NG31 6LL

Images: Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission photo libraries, iStockphoto. Illustrations by David Halliwell.

Leaf flowers

Make dazzling flowers using colourful autumn leaves.

You will need:

- Colourful autumn leaves, lots of different sizes, shapes and colours
- A stick
- Some mud

How to make:

- First add a blob of mud about a third of the way along your stick. This will stop the leaves sliding down.
- Now start to skewer your leaves onto the stick, starting with the biggest ones first and fanning them out so you don't have any gaps.
- Layer more and more leaves on top, gradually getting smaller.
- When you're done, add another blob of mud on the end of the stick and voila! A lovely, bright leafy flower.



Mud creatures

Make a fantastical beast or a realistic animal out of mud!

Use the mud like clay to form the body of your creature. You'll need some sloppy mud you can mould into shape. If you can't find any muddy puddles, add some water to earth from a molehill or the soil from the woodland floor.



Caroline's quirky creature

Look out for natural materials to create wings, legs, tentacles, claws, spines, scales, feathers and eyes.

Sally's
slippery
slithery
serpent



Leaf scarves

Give a tree a dazzling leaf scarf as a present, to keep it cosy as the winter draws closer.

Collect lots of colourful autumn leaves and a bundle of small, thin sticks.

To make a tree scarf you need to "pin" the leaves together with the twigs, to form a long string of leaves.

Think about the order of the leaves as you pin them together. Will you make the scarf all one colour, alternate the colours to make it stripy, or do something completely unique?

How long can you make your scarf?

When it's finished, tie or drape the scarf around the tree's trunk, or along its branches.



Magic wands

Woods are enchanting places full of mystery, intrigue and magic. Make your own magic wand to weave spells or stir potions.

You will need:

- An unusual or special stick
- A potato peeler
- Felt tip pens
- Wool, ribbon, leaves, feathers

How to make:

- Use the potato peeler to scrape the bark off your stick – point the stick away from you and carefully peel the bark away from yourself.
- If your peeler has a pointy end, carve magic words, symbols or patterns onto the bare wood. Or use felt tips to draw on it.
- Tie ribbons, wool, feathers and leaves onto your wand to decorate it.
- Your wand is almost finished. To make it magical, hold it in your hands and close your eyes, then make up a rhyme and chant it.
- Now you're ready to try a spell!



Woolly acorns

Make brightly coloured acorn decorations. You will need:

- Brightly coloured wool roving (available from craft shops), or sheep wool snagged on a fence around a sheep field. It must be animal wool, not synthetic.
- Acorn cups – collect them from underneath an oak tree
- Liquid hand soap, warm water and some PVA glue

How to make:

- Mix a little bit of liquid soap with some warm water.
- Pull a small handful of wool apart, to fluff up the fibres.
- Dip the wool into the soapy water and roll it between the palms of your hands. Keep dipping and rolling until the wool fuses together to make a solid ball – you will have very clean hands!
- Do this with the rest of the wool until you have lots of colourful little balls, then put them somewhere safe to dry out.
- When they've dried, glue the colourful "acorns" into the acorn cups to finish your decorations.



Bark boats

Find a dead log with bark peeling off and carefully break off a piece.

Use some mud to attach a light stick as a mast. A leaf, feather or thin piece of bark would make a great sail for your boat.

Find a puddle or small stream to float your boat in.

If it sinks, try moving the mast and sail around on the bark. If it still won't float, you've created a bark submarine!

Challenge your friends to a boat race. Whose boat can travel across a puddle first? If it's not very windy, try blowing your boats to make them sail faster.



Leaf faces and muddy smiles

Use mud and natural materials to make faces in the woods.

Create a face peeping up from the woodland floor, or use mud to make a face peering down from a tree trunk.

What can you find to represent eyes, hair, teeth, beards and glasses?

Try creating your own face in leafy, woody form or a whole family of weird and wonderful faces.

When you've finished, leave your creations for other people to find. Then on your next visit, look to see if any new ones have appeared!



Flower skewers and garlands

As you walk around in spring, pick up fallen flowers from the forest floor and thread them onto sticks to make colourful flower skewers. Look out for large rhododendron flowers like these below, to make striking, attention-grabbing skewers.



Tree blossom, primroses, anemones and violets are smaller and more delicate, so thread these onto thinner twigs instead. Leave them in the woods to mark a special place.



To make a necklace, thread flowers onto string or cotton. In autumn, look out for winged seeds from field maple, sycamore and ash trees to make autumn garlands.

Cone creatures

In Finland and Sweden, children make traditional toy "cone cows" out of cones and sticks.

To make one, collect some open cones from the forest floor and poke stick legs into them.

Use grass or leaves as a tail.

What other animals can you make?

- Birds with leaf beaks and feather wings
- Cone rabbits with grass fur and field maple seed ears
- Squirrels with fluffy, mossy tails
- Deer with twig antlers
- Spiky hedgehogs!



Tree collages

Make a tree picture on the woodland floor.

Collect twigs, fallen leaves, tree flowers and seeds to make your tree.

Decide if you're going to make a HUGE tree or a tiny one.

What season will you show?

- frothy spring blossoms
- lush summer leaves
- brilliant autumn colour
- bare winter twigs?

