

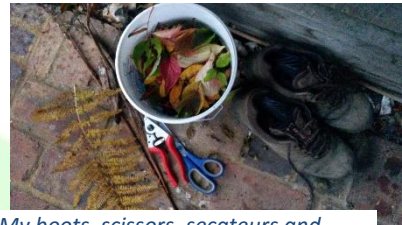
What to look for outdoors in Autumn

Making Leaf Art

Wow! Aren't the colours of autumn amazing – so much so we've done 2 resource sheets!

What you need:

Your wellies – autumn can be wet and muddy, a bag or a bucket (ideally with a handle) and a pair of scissors or secateurs if you're happy using them (if not, take someone who is)



My boots, scissors, secateurs and an old paint bucket with a handle, now full of autumn leaves and berries



Do remember that leaves are a source of food and energy for a tree and its fruits are its babies so don't go stealing more than a tiny bit here and a tiny bit there. You will find masses on the ground that the tree won't miss at all.



Remember, too, that some berries are poisonous. One is called deadly nightshade, which says it all. Avoid those you are not sure of or, at least, put in a separate plastic bag the ones you are not sure of (so that they do not contaminate anything else) and wash your hands before you put your fingers anywhere near your mouth.



You are in charge of your own safety.

It doesn't take long to find lots of leaves, berries, some sticks and pieces of wood – gather the ones that you like best in your bucket or bag.

Do

Get creating! There is no right or wrong in how you make your autumn art – I've had a wonderful time experimenting with different leaves, colours and sizes of pictures. You might like to look at what [Andy Goldworthy](#) does and see if you can make some pictures inspired by his work.

Field maple leaves I arranged in a cascade, of shades varying from green through yellow to purple.



If you look hard you can find even more colours!

I needed 4 sheets of A4 paper to show off my golden bracken leaf as it was so big!



A bracken leaf

I enjoyed arranging rowan leaves and a small bunch of rowan berries. First I arranged them in a row, one downward and the other two upward on either side.



Rowan leaves - and a small bunch of rowan berries



Then I arranged them radiating from a point, roughly putting green opposite green and gold-tinged-with-brown opposite each other.



Questions

Could I have made a symmetrical pattern?

I also put two pieces of A4 paper together and arranged the leaves from green, through gold through gold-and-brown, to brown-with-a-bit-of-gold to brown. Where would you have put the berries?

I enjoyed looking at the colours and different shapes and sizes of hawthorn leaves and oak leaves.



Hawthorn leaves



Oak leaves



Green hawthorn leaves



One hawthorn tree still had green leaves. I like the little pairs of 'collars' at the base of the petioles.



Botanists call the little collars '**stipules**', and their position where the petiole joins the shoot they call the '**axil**'.



Dogwood leaves, berries and berry stalks



A dogwood leaf

Dogwood leaves were wonderfully colourful and the shiny little berries were such a deep purple they were almost black. I enjoyed setting out the leaves and positioning bunches of berries and berry stalks amongst them.



Questions

How do you think this leaf came to be so markedly half yellow and half red-purple?

I assume that a leaf above exactly masked the yellow half so that it did not get the sun it would need to photosynthesise.

The plant sensed this and did not renew any of the green chlorophyll necessary for photosynthesis in this half of the leaf. With the chlorophyll not there, we can see the yellow pigments usually masked by chlorophyll. Isn't that clever?!

In the purple-red part of the leaf we see pigments that chlorophyll has been turned into.

For a full explanation of autumn colours, see Hello Trees Resource Sheet '[Science of Autumn Colour](#)'.



A dogwood leaf that has been attacked by a pest

Here is a dogwood leaf that looks as if it has been charred. It hasn't been charred – or burnt at all – but it has been invaded by a pest.



Do you think the leaf is dark where the pest has eaten the inside of the leaf? Or do you think the dark bits are pest eggs or pupae left in the leaf to overwinter and hatch into grubs or emerge with wings.

Or perhaps the pest is a fungus? I looked through the images of dogwood pests on the Internet but couldn't see anything like this.

There are lots of questions about trees we still don't know the answers to – maybe you will become a botanist and find out!



I also made what I thought of as a dogwood-berry forest.

And a hornbeam circle on a plate, which I thought was pretty.

What do you think?



Making faces is fun!



I made two faces: one of 2 oak leaves, 2 dogwood berries and a twig with acorns that had failed to develop; the other with rowan leaves, ash-leaf stalks, dogwood berries, hornbeam seeds and hawthorn berries.

Can you tell which is which?

Please share your autumn artwork on our [Facebook](#) page – we'd love to see what you've done! . I hope you have as much fun as I did making pictures.



For more things to do and more information about trees, see our Hello Trees Resource Sheets at <http://hellotrees.co.uk/>