

Hello Trees Resource Sheet

What to look for outdoors in Summer

Tree identification: horsechestnut

'I wish I had learned which tree is which when I was a child'. I would be rich if I had £1 for each time someone has said this to me.

And now it is official: 'Pupils should be taught to **identify and name** a variety of common wild and garden plants, including **deciduous and evergreen trees**.'

The National Curriculum Year 1 Science programme of study, Plants, Statutory requirements



There are so many trees it is difficult to know where to start with tree identification, but getting to know one tree at a time is best.



In the interests of positive reinforcement at all stages, we start with an easy one first.

In June, horsechestnuts have distinctive leaves, obvious flowers and signs of the development of their much loved conkers.

- Leaf
- Flower
- Fruit



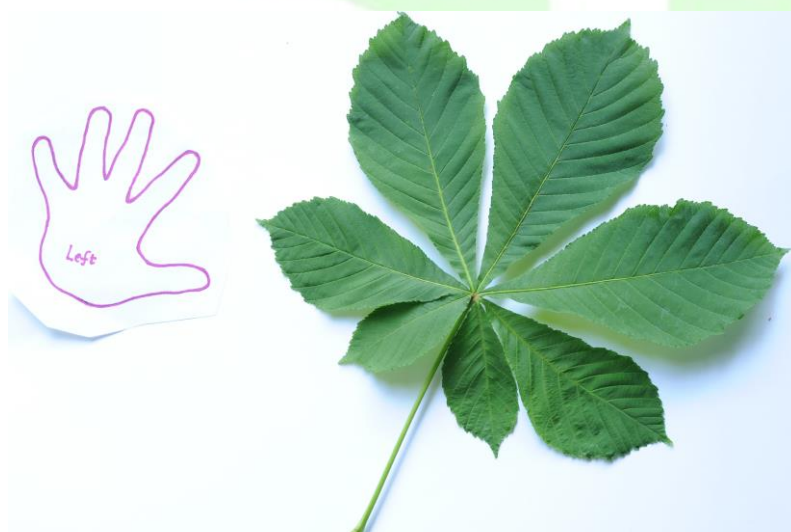
Horsechestnut tree in bloom

All with an 'f' sound: the 3 clues to a tree identity in Spring, Summer and Autumn.



If we put up the 3 middle fingers of our left (also an 'f' sound) hand – rather like the Scout and Guide Associations' salute - we have the middle finger, our biggest finger, reminding us of the most obvious clue to the tree's identity, the **leaf**; then the fingers on either side are the **flower** and the **fruit**.

(In winter, we shall look at the other 3 clues to tree identity: bark, branching and buds.)



Horsechestnut leaf next to the hand print of a 5 year-old child



Any idea why this shape of leaf is called '**palmate**' or '**digitate**'?



Clues: the flat part of your hand is called your '**palm**' and '**digit**' is another word for '**finger**'.



Yes, the leaf is like a hand.

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Filaments like glamorous eyelashes?
ski jumps? or octopus tentacles?

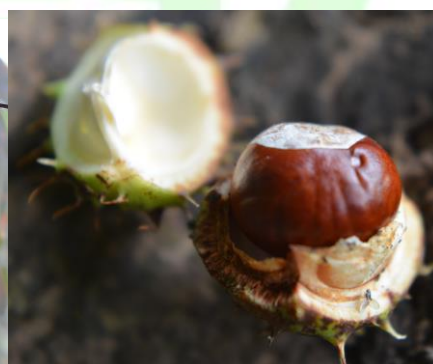


A blaze of colour that changes from yellow to red. Why?



Clue: bees are attracted to yellow and don't see red very well.

Horsechestnut flowers



What possible advantage to the trees are the green spikes on the developing conker cases?

Horsechestnut fruit in 3 stages of development



Look out for Hello Trees book 'Horace Horsechestnut', more about trees, fun things to look for and do indoors and outdoors, and other Hello Trees books, all on the [Hello Trees website](http://www.hellotrees.co.uk).