

Hello Trees Resource Sheet

What to look for outdoors All Year

Bark Rubbing



Bark protects a tree from animals, fungi, insects, rot, rain, heat, frost, fire and impact.



The only trouble is, bark is not elastic.



Our skin is elastic so that, as we grow, it stretches.



Each year a tree grows wider.

We say, 'it grows in girth'

It grows outwards because inside it has developed new vessels to carry water up from the roots to the leaves and other vessels to carry sap down from the leaves.



So what happens to the bark, as the tree expands?

Have a look at the bark of different trees and see what happens.



See the splits and cracks and flakes and strips and pimples and crusts and ...



A Cub Scout said, 'It's like toast'. He was describing the feel of beech bark.

'Spot-on', I thought. That perfectly describes the bark we barked we were looking at.

See what words you can think of to describe what you see.



I think it is fun to do bark rubbing.

Hold a piece of paper against the bark and rub over it with a wax crayon.

It is quite tricky to do on your own, but I just-about managed.

Can you find someone to hold the paper for you while you rub – then swap jobs?

You need, apart from a tree or two – any ones will do, they all have bark,

1. Paper: white or coloured; A5 is a good size; lots of it to do lots of different bark.
2. Wax crayons: you don't need to match the colour of the bark, try different colours.
3. A bag to hold paper and crayons.



Tips:

- ✓ Don't try to draw into the cracks: no colour will show where there are cracks.
- ✓ Try removing the paper around the crayon and holding the crayon sideways to rub.
- ✓ Try rubbing with one colour crayon and then with another colour over the first.



Each of the [Hello Trees books](#) describes the bark of a tree.

'[Bark versus Skin](#)' is a fun discovery sheet.

The [Hello Trees Lesson Plan for April](#) is all about bark.