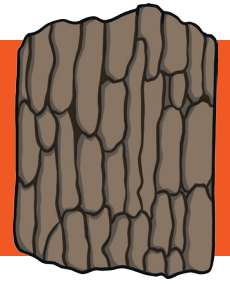




Take It Outside: Winter

STEM: Tree Bark Rubbing



Introduction

Deciduous trees lose their leaves in winter. This makes it harder to identify them. Imagine you are an animal in winter, how would you recognise your tree home? Use this STEM investigation to study the difference in tree bark and begin to identify and name trees.

You will need:

- Paper
- Wax crayons or chalk
- Tape (optional)

Key Questions

- What is the purpose of tree bark?
- Are all tree bark patterns the same?
- Can you describe the texture of the tree bark?
- Which is the best way to make a rubbing?



What to do:

FACT: Tree bark is very different between trees. You can use it to identify the type of tree.

1. Choose a tree to focus on. Are some beginning to fall? If the answer is yes, it must be a deciduous tree. Trees that stay green throughout the year are known as evergreen. Can you find an evergreen tree?
2. Press a piece of paper onto the tree trunk. You could simply hold it down, ask a friend to help or use tape. Run the crayon over the paper. Which way is best- left to right or up and down?

FACT: Bark protects the tree. As you make your rubbing, look closely at the bark. How does it protect the tree? What does the bark look like? What does it feel like?

3. Try swapping your rubbing with a friend. Can you find their tree using the rubbing?



Ways to Support

Provide magnifying glasses to look really close at the bark. What do you notice? What is the bark made from? What else can you see?

Ways to Extend

Build up a scrapbook of information on the trees in your area. Collect bark rubbings in winter, images of buds and blossom in spring and collect leaves in summer and autumn. Make a note of the changes in the tree throughout the seasons.

Curriculum links:

Science: Identify and name deciduous and evergreen trees; observe changes across the seasons.