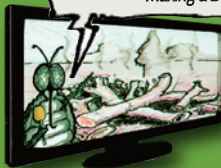


Keeping The Trees Safe

**The Park is a National Nature Reserve.
Please Tread Lightly!**

**Take Nothing from the Park
Leave Nothing Behind**

*Bug Town has been destroyed!
Reports from the scene suggest the
disaster was caused by young humans
'Making a Den!'*



Respect the Wildlife

Fallen wood is home to many insects - please leave it where it is and don't use it to make dens.

Many trees here are very old - please don't climb them - you may break their limbs - and yours too!

Keeping Yourself Safe

Watch out for OPM!

Some of the oak trees in the park have a small yellow tag to show that Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) has been spotted on them. The name comes from the way the caterpillars often line up into a long chain that slowly moves along the tree.

Watch out for low hanging caterpillars!
Some hang down from low branches of oak trees and before you know it, your face has been tickled by hairy little bugs. Unfortunately, the hairs of the caterpillars carry a toxin (*poison*) which can make you unwell

Watch out for Ticks!

Ticks are small spider-like creatures that can bite you and give you a serious illness called Lyme disease.

Avoid tick bites by keeping on paths, wearing long sleeved tops, long trousers tucked into socks and using insect repellent.

Check for ticks on your skin when you get home. Also check your dogs. They can be tick magnets!

For more information see www.frp.org.uk.

Welcome to

Tree of the Month

Tree of the Month is part of 2020 The Year of the Tree, which is the Friends of Richmond Park's year-long conservation campaign, with Sir David Attenborough as its Patron.

Every month from March to December, there will be opportunity for the whole family to explore and learn about a different tree through a series of free information sheets.

Ask for these at the Visitor Centre or download them from the Friends website www.frp.org.uk.

Look out for a different tree from the 1st of every month.

This leaflet has lots of information about trees in general, how to identify different trees and how to keep the trees and yourself safe when you are in the Park.

What Is a Tree?

A tree is a tall plant with a trunk and branches made of wood.

Trees can have long lives and Richmond Park has many of the oldest trees in the UK - some may be more than 700 years old!

Some trees have grown in what is now Britain since before the last ice age - these are called '*native*' trees. Humans have brought in other trees that have lived well here for hundreds of years - these are called '*naturalised*'.

The Park has over 130,000 trees and these include about 40 species (*similar types*) of native trees and 20 species of naturalised trees.



Charity number 1133201

Tree of the Month leaflets are produced by the Friends of Richmond Park, written by Vivienne Press and Christopher Hedley. Edited for younger readers and designed by Ken Edwards.

**So... What's all the fuss about?
Why are trees so important?**

Trees are good for the environment

- They improve air quality, by producing oxygen and absorbing lots of carbon dioxide.
- The carbon that they store in their wood helps slow the rate of global warming.
- They reduce wind speeds and cool the air as they lose moisture and reflect heat upwards from their leaves.
- They nourish the soil, which is good for other plants.

Trees boost wildlife

- They provide shelter and food to amazing communities of birds, insects, lichen and fungi.
- As they age, their trunks also provide the hollow cover needed by species such as bats, wood-boring beetles, tawny owls and woodpeckers.
- One mature oak can be home to as many as 400 different species. Richmond Park has around 1300 such veteran trees!

Trees are good for our health

- The canopies (*top parts*) of trees act as a filter, trapping dust and absorbing pollutants from the air.
- They also provide shade from the sun's rays and reduce noise.
- There is growing evidence that seeing and being around trees is good for our mental health.
- Trees provide us with healthy food - fruits, nuts and seeds.
- Trees give us medicines - aspirin originally came from willow trees.

How Do You Identify A Tree?

All trees have clues and features that can help you identify them. They have lots of different parts, and these look different in each species of tree.

Here are some of the features you can compare just by looking carefully.



General Appearance



Look at the tree's overall size & shape from a distance.

Bark (*the covering of the trunk*) is to a tree what our skin is to us. Check out the texture, markings and colour.

Is the bark...

Smooth or rough?

Shiny or dull?

Are there any patterns?

What colours can you see?

Bark



Twigs, Thorns & Buds

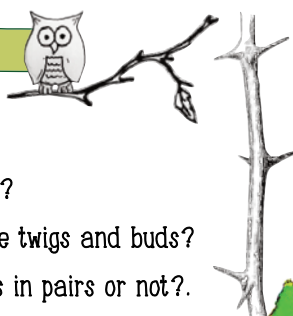
Are the twigs...

Smooth, rough or hairy?

Are there prickly thorns?

What colour are the twigs and buds?

Are the buds in pairs or not?



Leaves & Needles

Plenty of clues here - particularly in spring and summer.

Some trees lose their leaves in the autumn. They are called deciduous (dee-sid-yoo-us) trees.

Some trees don't. They are known as evergreens.

There may be just one leaf at the end of a twig, or there may be many smaller leaflets around a stalk.

Leaves can also have lots of different shapes, sizes, colours and textures.

The edges of leaves can be smooth or tooth-like.

Some leaves don't look like leaves - they are thin and pointed, so are called needles.

Trees with needles are called conifers.

Leaves are amazing! They multitask!

They make food for the rest of the tree, they breathe for the tree and they allow water to evaporate.

Flowers

Flowers have lots of different shapes, sizes and colours.

They can be on their own on a twig, or in pairs or in clusters.

Some clusters are long, thin and droopy. They are called catkins. This is because people think they look like kitten's tails.

Some new trees are produced by wind blowing pollen from catkins onto parts of other trees.

Flowers look great, especially to insects who come and pollinate them.

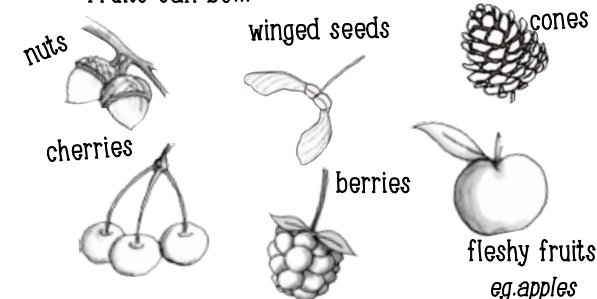
Flowers help to make fruits and seeds.

Flowers of fruit trees are called blossoms.

Fruit & Seeds

Fruits contain and protect the trees' seeds.

Fruits can be...



Many birds and other animals like eating particular fruits. The seeds then pass through their bodies unharmed, falling to the ground in their droppings (*poos*) - all ready to grow into another tree.

SEEDS INCLUDED

Sometimes, the fruit gets moved quite a long way from the tree they came from.

Other times, dozy squirrels and jays forget where they have stored acorns for eating later and these acorns then can grow into large oaks.

Four types of tree have been planted in Richmond Park because their fruits provide food for the deer:

oaks for their acorns,
sweet and horse chestnuts,
and beech with their nuts.

To know what to look for can be quite tricky. The Woodland Trust however, has a brilliant new app to help you identify trees:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/tree-id-app/>

For more information and videos on flowers, seeds, fruits and pollination, see www.bbc.bitesize

