

Q.2 Why do you think conkers and beech nuts are covered in prickles?

Funky Fact: Beneath the sticky buds on Horse Chestnut branches there is a mark shaped like a horseshoe. This is how it got its name!

SPY How many different types of tree seeds can you find on the ground?

Do it! Find a tree and place some paper on the trunk. Use the crayons to make a rubbing of the bark.

See how many weird and wonderful patterns you can get.

Q.3 Can you work out which is the oldest tree in the park?

Funky Fact: Trees called London Planes are often planted in streets, because they can cope with pollution from traffic fumes. They do this by shedding bark which means the tree's breathing pores don't get blocked by soot and grime.

Do it! Find out the age of a tree! Using a ruler and string measure around the trunk at a height of 1.5m. Divide the number of cm by 2.

Funky Fact: Thin sheets of beech wood were once used as paper. The name beech comes from the Norse 'buche' or 'bok' which means book.

Q.1 What sort of creatures live in trees and why?



Q.4 Do you know when and why a tree loses its leaves?

Do it! Collect a large number of fallen oak leaves. Count the number of lobes on each leaf and group them.

What is the average number of lobes?



Q.5 We have mouths, but how does a tree eat and drink? (Clue: it also helps stop the tree from falling over)



Funky Fact: Yew wood is dense, but also very bendy. In the past it was used to make long bows, spears and dagger handles.

SPY Can you find these? (tick the boxes)

a bird a nest
 mushrooms
 a squirrel a snail shell some lichen or moss

Bruce Castle Tree Trail

Answers to the questions can be found on the insert

Do it! **Mini beast hunt.** Place a large sheet of paper under a tree and gently shake a branch. Write down what insects fall out.

How many different types of mini beast live in different trees?

Funky Fact: Trees have many other uses too. They can be used for furniture, toys, packing crates, paper pulp, boats and even houses!

