Trees and leaves

How a tree is built and how to recognise trees.

★ ★ ★
EXPLANATION

Grade 1–3 · NAT-BOM

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

1 What you will learn

You will learn to name the parts of a tree and the difference between a broadleaf tree and a conifer.

WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW

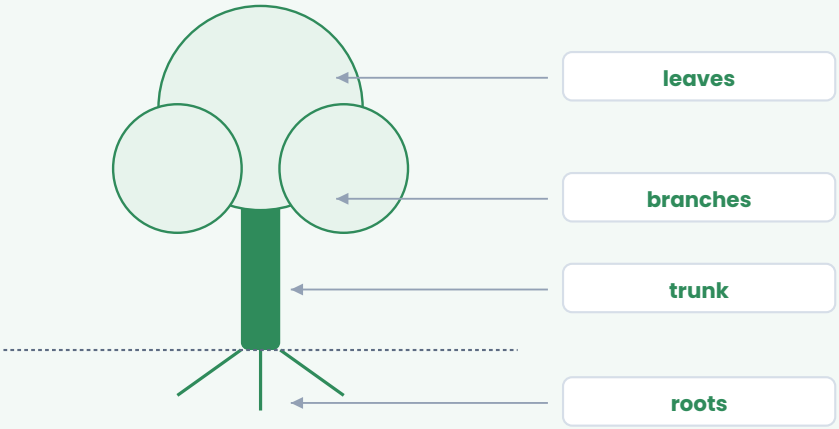
You have been to a wood or a park and you can copy words.

WORDS YOU NEED

roots trunk branches leaves broadleaf conifer

HOW TO DO IT — STEP BY STEP

1. **The roots are under the ground.**
   They hold the tree in place and take water from the soil.
2. **The trunk carries the whole tree.**
   Water travels up through the trunk to the leaves.
3. **The branches carry the leaves.**
   That way the leaves catch as much sunlight as possible.
4. **The leaves make food.**
   Using sunlight, water and air the leaf makes food for the tree. Oxygen is released as well.



REMEMBER

Roots, trunk, branches and leaves: each part has a job.
Broadleaf: flat leaves that fall in autumn.
Conifer: narrow needles that stay on.

QUESTIE'S TIP

Not sure whether it is a broadleaf or a conifer? Feel the leaf. Flat and wide is broadleaf, narrow and prickly is conifer.

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TOGETHER

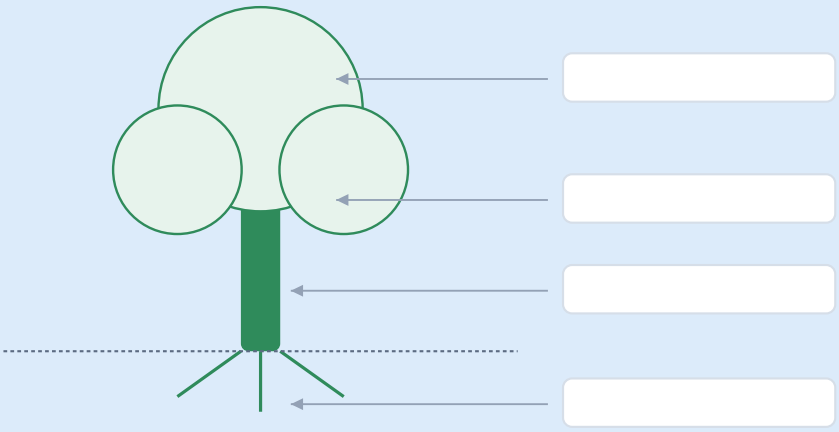
Grade 1–3 · NAT-BOM

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

1 Label the tree

Write the right word from the word bank in each box.

roots | trunk | branches | leaves | broadleaf | conifer



2 Broadleaf or conifer?

Put a cross in the right column.

roots	○	○ take in and hold water
trunk	○	○ carry the tree
leaves	○	○ make food using sunlight
branches	○	○ hold the leaves up to the light

3 Which part does what?

Draw a line from the part to its job.

1. The _____ take water from the soil.
2. Water travels up through the _____
3. The _____ make food using sunlight.
4. A tree with needles is a _____

QUESTIE'S TIP

Look up on your way home. Which tree grows in your street?

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★ ★ ★ PRACTICE

Grade 1–3 · NAT-BOM

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

1 A · Fill in the right word

Write the answer on the line.

1. The _____ take water from the soil.
2. Water travels up through the _____
3. The _____ make food using sunlight.
4. A tree with needles is a _____

2 B · True or false?

	true	false
1. A conifer loses all its needles in autumn.	☐	☐
2. The roots take water from the soil.	☐	☐
3. Water travels up through the trunk.	☐	☐
4. Leaves make food using sunlight.	☐	☐
5. An oak is a conifer.	☐	☐
6. A pine has needles.	☐	☐

3 Label the tree

Write the right word from the word bank in each box.

broadleaf	conifer

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APPLY

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Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

1 Nature investigation

Do this outside, or with a leaf you brought inside.

1. Find a leaf outside. Put it under your paper and rub over it with a pencil. What appears?

2. Count how many different leaf shapes you can find. How many are there?

3. Hug a tree trunk. Can your hands touch? Roughly how thick is the trunk?

4. Look up. Do you see buds, flowers, fruit or only branches? Write down what you see.

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CHECK & CHALLENGE

Grade 1–3 · NAT-BOM

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

1 Check yourself

	true	false
1. A conifer loses all its needles in autumn.	☐	☐
2. The roots take water from the soil.	☐	☐
3. Water travels up through the trunk.	☐	☐
4. Leaves make food using sunlight.	☐	☐
5. An oak is a conifer.	☐	☐
6. A pine has needles.	☐	☐

CHALLENGE

Your tree through the year

Choose one tree near you. Draw it four times: in spring, summer, autumn and winter. What changes and what stays the same?

2 I can do this

- I can name the parts of a tree. ☺ 😐 ☹
- I know the difference between broadleaf trees and conifers. ☺ 😐 ☹
- I know what each part of the tree does. ☺ 😐 ☹

TEACHER'S NOTE

Work with real leaves wherever you can: a ten-minute walk beats a whole lesson from a book. Let pupils sort leaves by shape before you introduce the words broadleaf and conifer.

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For the teacher

★ ★ ★ ANSWERS

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A · FILL IN THE RIGHT WORD

1. roots
2. trunk
3. leaves
4. conifer

B · TRUE OR FALSE?

1. false
2. true
3. true
4. true
5. false
6. true

BROADLEAF OR CONIFER?

roots - take in and hold water
trunk - carry the tree
leaves - make food using sunlight
branches - hold the leaves up to the light

LABEL THE TREE

broadleaf: oak, beech, birch
conifer: pine, spruce, fir