



TREE FESTIVAL 2024

BRIGHTON & HOVE



Sussex

The countryside charity

CELEBRATING OUR CITY'S TREES May 11–12 and 18–19

The Tree Festival's family friendly events highlight the importance of Brighton & Hove's trees and their immense value to the city and its residents. The Festival runs over two weekends in May and aligns with the London Urban Tree Festival.

CHAMPION SCHOOL TREES

We invite all our schools to take part in the festival and to celebrate their special trees through our Champion School Tree activity. We'd like to learn where the tallest, widest, and oldest trees are in Brighton and Hove's schools, and what makes them special.

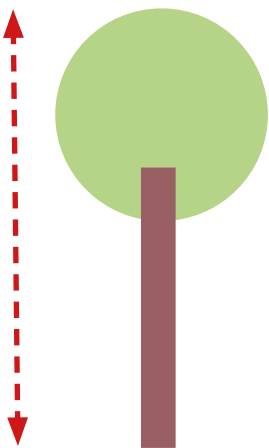
If you have no trees, you could choose a tree or trees in your nearest park or open space. The processes you will go through link to KS1 through to KS3 with links into Geography, Science, Maths and English.

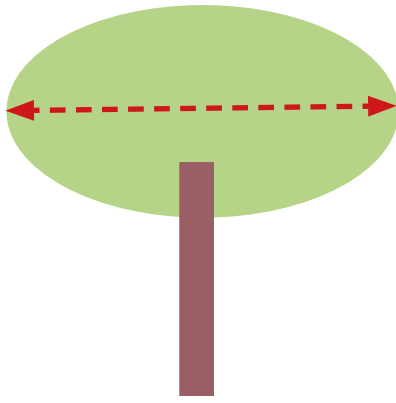
What we need from you

Select a tree or trees and tell us the height, spread, girth and age, and what it is. Please provide a photo of the tree, with detail of leaves and any flowers, fruits or nuts. Tell us why the tree is special. Let us have photos, artwork including paintings, drawings and collage. We will exhibit the best material received at Jubilee Library. All activities are designed to get children 'up close and personal' with trees, in order to interact with them as much as possible.

Height

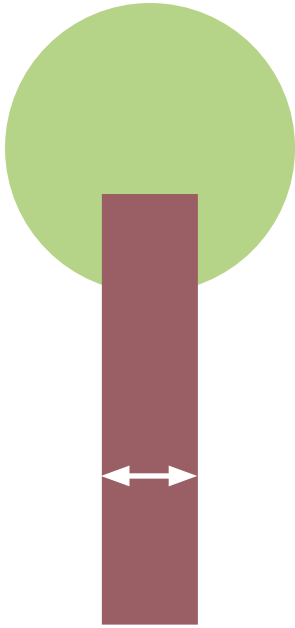
Tree height can be measured in many ways. We suggest the following method; children should work in pairs. Each measures the height of the other and records the result. One child stands up straight with their back to the tree. The second child walks away from the tree, turning around occasionally to check, until, with one arm outstretched, a pen or pencil held vertically appears to be the same height as the other child. With one eye closed, the pen or pencil is moved up the tree to see how many times it fits the height of the tree from ground level to the top. The number is recorded, and multiplied by the height of the other child to give the approximate height of the tree. Now change roles and see if the result is the same.





Spread

Tree spread can be measured in many ways. We suggest a method: again working in pairs, each child measures the length of a step of the other child and records the result. Choose a tree and using a compass find out which are the north, east, south and west sides of the tree. For each point of the compass one child walks from the trunk to the outermost leaf of the tree counting their steps. The four numbers are recorded and added together, then multiplied by the pace length of the first child. Divide this number by two to give the spread (diameter) of the tree. Again, change roles and see if the result is the same.



Girth (and age)

Again, many methods exist to measure girth. This is what we suggest: gather together as many children as are needed. Children hug the tree with arms outstretched, fingertip to fingertip. Once the tree is encircled, measure the outstretched arms of each child and add the numbers together. This gives the girth of the tree. Ideally this should be done at a height of 1.3m above the ground, but with smaller children this will not be possible, so record also the average shoulder height of the children involved.

From girth, age can be estimated. On average, one year's growth is equivalent to 2.5cm, so if the result is divided by 2.5cm, an approximate age will be found.

Obviously trees grow at different rates, so for faster growing trees such as Sycamore, 2.75cm should be used, whilst for Beech and Oak the figure should be 1.88cm. For conifers use 3.13cm.

What is our tree?

There are many methods of identifying trees. For simplicity, we suggest downloading The Woodland Trust's printable Tree ID Guides from:

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

The Woodland Trust's Tree ID App is available for smartphones, and provides more detail.

The festival is run by volunteers and we are very grateful for the generous support of our sponsors



HANNINGTONS
BRIGHTON



Rampion
Offshore Wind

Why is it special?

How does your tree make your children feel? They have hugged it and studied it. Working in pairs or small groups ask them to record how they feel about it, what it looks like, feels like, smells like. What lives or sleeps in the tree or eats its leaves or fruit? Develop word clouds, poems, prose, and artwork – painting, drawing or collage. And share the very best with us as an A1 sheet (or 2 x A2 sheets) for display in an exhibition in June.

Want to know more?

For more information contact cpresussex.org.uk/tree-festival/champion-school-trees

The following example links provide more background information if required

Teaching kids about urban trees www.academia.edu

Tree measuring www.learning.southdowns.gov.uk

Activity finder www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk

Tree activities www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning (search 'tree activities')