

What are we looking at today?

Pattern seeking

Fair Testing

Identifying and Classifying

Observation over time

Research

STEM



Challenge:

To identify and then classify items found on a nature hunt.

You will need:

A collection of items found on a nature walk. Here are some ideas.



Challenges

Week: 4

Identifying and Classifying:

Can you classify a nature trail?

Things to talk about.

Try discussing these questions together.

- What does that have in common with this?
- How is that the same?
- I wonder...?
- Can I describe this in a different way?

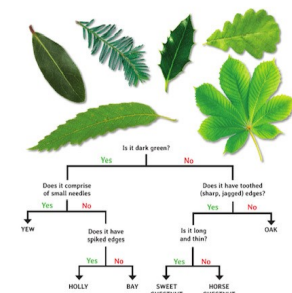


Aim:

If we can, a nature hunt is a brilliant way to spend our time outside. The beauty of a nature hunt, is that it can be absolutely anything. You can do a rainbow nature hunt—looking for as many colours as possible. A Spring nature hunt, mini beast, tree leaves, bees... the list is endless. Once you have decided what your looking for, you can collect some items—at least 6 would be great. The next task is to classify them. Here is an example on how you could classify some leaves that you collected. Using a series of 'yes and no' answers, you should be able to find an individual item.

Classification Keys

Classification keys are used to sort living things according to their characteristics. They are made up of questions with a "yes" or "no" answer. Have a go at sorting these leaves using the classification key below to discover what tree they come from.



Method
1 Choose a leaf to classify and start with the first question at the top of the classification key.
2 Follow the branches either "yes" or "no" and then ask yourself the next question.
3 When you have reached the last question, you will know what tree the leaf came from.

Want to know the science?

About this type of scientific enquiry

Identifying and classification is how we can make sense and order of the world around us. This enquiry type requires using observation and reasoning skills.

Examples of identifying and classifying include how we classify animals, plants and foods.

Identifying and classifying is used by scientists to help learn about the natural world and therefore assist in conservation projects. You can often help scientists to identify and classify using websites like zooniverse.org