



Challenge: Tall Trees!

Foresters need to know how tall a tree is for all kinds of reasons – one of the reasons is to help them know how much timber has been produced, ready for when the tree is felled (chopped down). They usually use some clever gadgets to measure a tree but there's a much simpler way – just bend over! Here's a challenge to help you develop your problem-solving skills, so let's get measuring trees!

You will need:
- tape measure (optional)
- pencil and paper

Step 1: Ask an adult to take you (perhaps on a walk) to somewhere where you can find tall-ish trees (about the height of a house is perfect!). Choose the tree you want to measure then go and stand with your back to the tree trunk.

Step 2: Slowly walk away from the trunk (the tree should be behind you). Pause every so often and bend over to look back at the tree between your legs. Look for the bottom AND the top of the tree. Stand up again then keep walking away and bending over until you can only just see the top AND bottom of the tree at the same time.

Step 3: Stand up and face the tree. Put a mark on the ground so you know where you were stood (perhaps a stick or stone, or even a football or a glove – whatever you have with you).

Step 4: Now, ask an adult to help you measure the distance from the marker back to the bottom of the tree trunk (in a straight line). Use a tape measure if you have one, or 'stride it out' (an adult's stride or 'big step' is usually about 1 metre). The distance you measure is the height of the tree! Clever eh?

Step 5: Record the measurement on your paper. Could you draw a table to record your results? You could include the type of tree if you are able to identify it (have a look at the leaf template on the next page – if its new leaves haven't grown yet, have a look on the floor at any brown leaves from last year for a clue)? Could you draw a simple map of the place you visit, and plot the locations of the trees you measure, as well as their height? Why not keep your recordings then visit the same space again next year and see how much they've grown?



Which skills will I be developing?

Main



Additional



Skills Builder
PARTNERSHIP



Leaf hunt



alder



ash



beech



birch



elder



field maple



hawthorn



hazel



holly



horse chestnut



oak



rowan



sycamore

Have you found any other leaves? Draw or stick them here and find out their names:



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