Become a tree champion

Track the health of the nation's urban trees.

MONSTER MAP
With more than a million trees recorded, Treezilla is the UK's biggest open tree map.

What you need

- A tablet, smartphone or device connected to the internet
- A tree-identification guide (find one on the Treezilla site)
- Paper and pencil, or the Treezilla app
- A measuring tape
- A camera

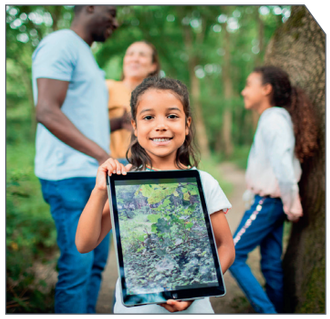
How does it work?

Treezilla is a citizen science project to map and monitor trees in the UK and Ireland. Running since 2013, the project recruits members of the public to collect measurements that scientists can analyse. It is particularly interested to find out about trees in urban spaces. Trees play important roles in built-up areas – they help clean the air, keeping it healthy for people to breathe; they also provide shade and homes for wildlife; and they help give people a natural boost. Scientists don't know much about the trees in towns and cities, and the data collected will be used to calculate the benefits of trees to society. The project also encourages people to connect with nature and learn more about different tree species.

1 Ask a grown-up to visit tinyurl.com/SN-treezilla register a new account in their name. Now you are ready to start mapping trees in your local area.

2 Pack the rest of the equipment and head out. Look at trees in your garden, local streets, parks and woodlands. Check Treezilla to see if they have already been recorded.

3 When you find an unrecorded tree, note its location and species. Measure around its trunk about 1.5 metres off the ground. Take a photo of the leaves, trunk and any fruit.



4 Once you're back home, upload all the information to add the new tree to the Treezilla map. Make sure your details are correct and the information is as precise as possible.

ALAMY · REX SHUTTERSTOCK

If you've enjoyed these activities, share the fun with other readers. Send your photos and videos to *scienceandnature@dennis.co.uk*
Look out for a great range of nature and science activities in the next issue.