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# Make an autumn tree

Celebrate National Tree Week with this simple project.

## What you need

- Brown paper bag
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Coloured paper
- Cardboard

## TREE SEARCH

Before you begin, study the shape of tree branches and the colours of the autumn leaves.

## How does it work?

Trees that lose their leaves every autumn are called deciduous trees. A leaf's job is to use energy from the Sun to convert carbon dioxide absorbed from the air and water into sugary food. The water comes from the soil, and it is sucked up through the trunk and branches of the tree, all the way to the leaves. The green colour comes from a substance called chlorophyll, which absorbs the sunlight. As the days get darker, there is less sunlight, so the tree starts to absorb the nutrients stored in the leaves. This is when they begin to change colour and fall off. When trees are leafless they can't make food, so they go into hibernation and "doze" through winter. In spring they grow new leaves, so they can start making food once again.



**1** Take your brown bag and lie it flat on a table. Use a ruler and pencil to draw lines, running from the top of the bag to halfway down. The lines should be about 1.5cm apart. Next, cut along the lines with scissors.



**2** Once you've cut the strips, stand the bag up and open it, as if you were going to fill it with sandwiches. Then, holding the base and middle of the bag, twist the bottom part to create the trunk of your tree.



**3** To create branches, think about how a tree looks. Why not take a walk outside to do some research? Recreate the look by taking two strips and twisting them together. Continue until you have twisted all the strips into beautiful branches.



**4** Finally, choose some coloured paper or card and cut out leaf shapes. Glue them to the branches of the tree. Cut out and glue a cardboard base to the bottom of the tree to help it stand up. Then display your tree to remind you how lovely autumn is.