



Things to make and do

Become a tree protector

To celebrate National Tree Week from 26 November to 4 December, get out in nature and help champion UK trees.

Go tree hunting

Use our handy guide to identify trees.

What you will need

- Outside space
- An adult
- Warm clothes

1 Head to your local outside space where there are lots of trees to find. Remember to dress up warm and take an adult with you.

2 Use our handy tips below and see if you can spot the UK's top three tree species.

3 Head to [treeguideuk.co.uk](https://www.treeguideuk.co.uk) to find out more about different tree species.



ASH TREE

Ash is quite a slender tree with upturned, trailing branches and black buds that look like boxing gloves.



HORSE CHESTNUT

These trees have thick trunks and branches that hang down and turn up at the ends. Also keep an eye out for the brown sticky buds.



SILVER BIRCH

This slender tree has pale bark with cracks all along the trunk. In November, it has rough twigs with purple buds and catkins (clusters of tiny flowers).



Wrap winter trees

Frost can be harsh on young trees.

What you will need:

- Warm clothes and gloves
- Wrapping material (e.g. bandages, fleece or hessian)
- Young trees

- 1 Head to an outdoor space where there are young trees. This could be a local park or your garden.
- 2 Take some wrapping material with you. When you find a young or tender tree, remove all of the damp leaves around the bottom of the trunk. Then, wrap the trunk of the tree in your chosen wrapping material, stuffing it with straw to keep it dry.
- 3 In spring, return to the trees you wrapped up and remove the wrapping gradually, so the tree can get used to the change in temperature.



How does it work?

The main reason why people wrap trees in winter is to prevent Sun scalding. This is when the tree bark heats up in the winter Sun. This may trick the tree into thinking summer is arriving and its cells can start to wake up. At night, temperatures drop and these cells die. Wrapping helps stop this from happening. Young trees and plants benefit the most from wrapping.



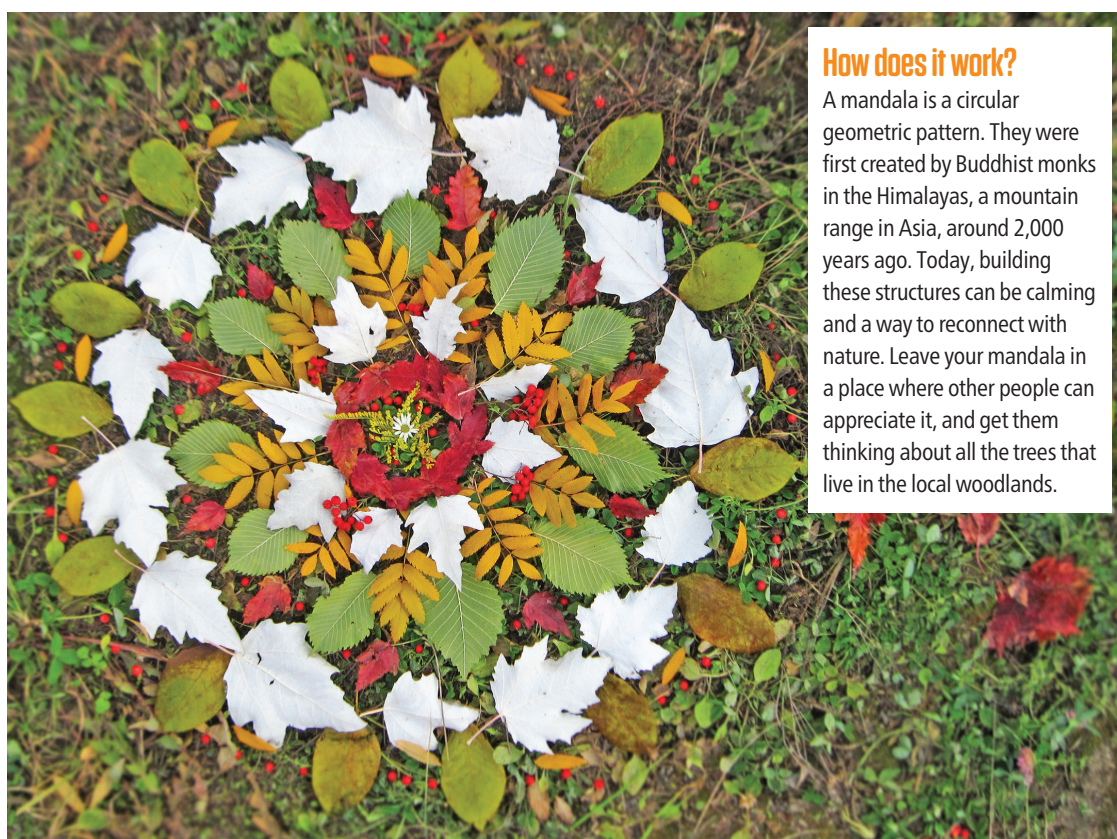
Make a leaf mandala

Go hunting for the most colourful and beautiful-shaped leaves for your project.

What you will need

- Warm clothes and gloves
- An adult
- A woodland area
- Lots of leaves
- A bucket or basket

- 1 Dress up really warm and head out to your local woodland. Don't forget to take an adult with you.
- 2 Go searching for the most interesting and colourful leaves you can find – make sure you leave enough for animals to build their winter homes. You may want to take a bucket or a basket with you to carry the leaves in.
- 3 Find an patch of grass or a path to build your mandala. Start by placing the most interesting leaf in the middle, then arrange the leaves around it in a circular pattern. See the picture to the right for inspiration. Go around and around, adding larger circles around the middle until your mandala is finished.



How does it work?

A mandala is a circular geometric pattern. They were first created by Buddhist monks in the Himalayas, a mountain range in Asia, around 2,000 years ago. Today, building these structures can be calming and a way to reconnect with nature. Leave your mandala in a place where other people can appreciate it, and get them thinking about all the trees that live in the local woodlands.