

WOOD YOU BELIEVE IT? TRAIL - Welcome to Chances Park

Thank you for downloading this activity sheet aimed at children aged 8-14 yrs. It would be helpful for the parent or adult in charge to also download a copy of the "Chances Park Nature Trail."

*****Adults must stress to children that they should not put anything that they find in the park in their mouths, and that they should wash their hands after completing the activities.*****

Activity 1: Compare a tree.com



If you are in a large group your adult will divide you into two groups. One group will go and investigate the tree marked number 1 on the map, while the other group will investigate tree number 2. After 10 minutes your adult will ask you to give a report on your tree.

Things you might want to include: The tree's name. A description of the leaves. A description of the bark. Does the tree have seeds, nuts or berries? Is it a deciduous or an evergreen tree?



Activity 2: Team tree

- 1. Walk to the Oak Tree (number 10 on your map.)
- 2. Each part of the tree has a special job. Can you see the Oak Tree's roots? What job do they do?



- ◇ Your feet and legs do one of the jobs that the roots do.
- ◇ Stand on one leg and raise your arms above your head. Do you feel wobbly?
- ◇ Put both feet on the ground, a little bit apart. Raise your arms. You should feel much more stable now.
- ◇ Tell your adult what the other important job is done by a tree's roots.

- 3. Have a close look at the bark of the Oak Tree. Now close your eyes and feel the bark with your fingers. Can you say what it feels like? Some trees have rough and bobbly bark, some have smooth and flaky. As you move around the park take time to investigate the bark of the trees you pass.
- 4. Can you tell a friend what the bark's job is? (Clue...it's job is a little bit like the job your skin does)
- 5. What do you think is underneath the bark? Later on in the trail you will visit a fallen tree. This will give you a chance to find out.
- 6. Look up! Are there any leaves on the tree? What colour are they? Look down! Are there fallen leaves on the ground? Pick one up and have a look at it. Can you see where it joined on to the twigs? Can you see any veins on the leaf?
- 7. The leaf's job is to collect energy from the sun. Stand in a group with your friends or family, holding leaves up to the sky. Spread them out so each leaf is in the daylight. That is the job of the branches and twigs.



Activity 3: Name That Tree

- As you are walking around the park, your challenge is to identify 5 different trees. If you can't identify a tree, make up a silly name for it. Walk towards the fallen tree, marked 5 on your map.



Activity 4: Home to Creepy Crawlies

- 1. Can you find the fallen tree trunk? (Number 5 on the map). Some of the bark has fallen off the trunk. Look carefully at the wood. There could be insects and other tiny creatures living in the dead tree. Can you find any? Show them to a friend.
- 2. You might be able to spot the rings inside the trunk, which show how much the tree grew each year. Start at the centre and count all the rings. How many are there?

Activity 5: Take A Walk To The Walnut

- 1. The Walnut Tree is marked number 8 on your map. Have you ever eaten a walnut? Or seen furniture made from Walnut wood? Can you see any walnuts growing on this tree? They will be covered in a green, protective shell. Inside this shell is a hard, brown wrinkly shell. You might have seen them in a shop. Inside this shell is the part you can eat!
- 2. New trees, or saplings need room to grow. How do the seeds of the walnut tree get to different parts of the park, away from the adult tree?



Activity 6: Getting Around

- 1. Have you spotted the seeds from any trees? If you have, tell your adult and they will choose who can collect a specimen of a seed.
- 2. Can you describe the seed? Do you know which tree they came from? How do they get dispersed (or moved around?)

Activity 7: A Baby Giant

- 1. You are now going to hunt for the Giant Redwood Trees (number 6 on your map). However, they are only young, so they are quite small. You will have to look carefully.
- 2. Stand next to a Giant Redwood. Are you as tall as a Giant Redwood? These trees were planted in 2009. How old are they?
- 3. Are they deciduous or evergreen trees? Describe their leaves to a friend.

Activity 8: Name That Tree—part 2

- As you walk back towards Morton Manor, tell your friends the names of all the trees you have spotted.

