

TREE TRAIL



SUITABLE FOR 3RD TO 6TH CLASSES
MAY, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER.

SUMMER COURSE 2017

BLACKROCK EDUCATION
CENTRE

FACILITATORS: Séamus Ó Canainn & Paddy Madden



Alder Tree (Fearnóg)

Equipment

String, Ruler, Compass

Information

Alder will grow in most soils, and likes wet sites. As it is resistant to decay when submerged in water, alder is very good for making posts which support bridges. In ancient Ireland sections of alder trunks were used as round shields.

The freshly cut



wood turns red.



Q1. Are the leaves

Alternate?

Opposite>



Q2. Where can you find the seeds of the Alder Tree?

Q3. Why would you plant an Alder Tree beside a river or marshy area?

Activity

Estimate the age of The Alder Tree

Estimate = m

Now to find the real age, measure the girth (width) 150cm from the ground, now divide by 2.5

Actual age = m

East to

A tree in Ireland grows outwards about 2.5 cm in



Use your compass. Go South
Stop 3 the Hazelnut Tree.

Designers: Mary Anne, Susan, Ruth, Anna





The Rowan (Caorthann)



Rowan was once widely planted by houses as a protection against witches. It produces scarlet berries in the autumn which birds love. The leaves are pinnate (shaped like a feather).

Equipment needed: String, clipboard, ruler, compass, pencil



Questions

1. Are the leaflets opposite or alternate?
2. Are the leaves round, heart-shaped or feather-shaped?
3. Are the **leaflets** symmetrical or asymmetrical?
4. Why do all the leaves want the sun shining on them?



1. Estimate the age of the tree.

2. Measure the girth 150 cm from the ground.

3. Divide this answer by 2.5. Example: 100cm divided by 2.5= 1000 divided by 25.

Answer: 40. Age of tree 40 years.

4. Sketch a leaf.

Well done!



Directions to Stop 6: Go eastwards to find the yew tree. Use your compass to guide you.

Compiled by: Catherine, Pádraig, Majella, Geraldine and Róisín.



Yew Tree (Iúr/Eo)

Equipment Needed: Compass, plasticine, crayons, pencil

Did you know?

The Yew tree doesn't allow other plants to grow near it.

The seeds are poisonous but birds and squirrels only eat the berry around the seed.

The Yew tree is a symbol of everlasting life. It can often be found in graveyards.

The Irish names Iúr and Eo are found in place names (Terenure, Maigh Eo)

Questions:

1. What shape is the leaf? (**clue:** weapon!) Oval, Triangular, Round, Lanceolate
2. Are the leaves opposite or alternate?
3. Why does the yew tree not allow any other plants to grow near it?



Activity:

- Draw a sketch of a twig with the leaves on both sides.
- Make a plasticine mould of a leaf. Place the plasticine over a leaf and gently press the leaf into the mould. Carefully remove the mould.



Next Step:

- Use the compass to locate North West (NW)
- Continue NW to Stop Number 1.

Designers: Irene, Bernie and Kate

Aspen Tree (Crann Creathach)

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- Native Irish Tree
- Part of the Rowan Family
- Translates into the trembling tree. Jesus was crucified on a Aspen and the tree is seen to tremble ever since.



Equipment

Clipboard, pen, string, ruler, sticky tape, paper, crayons, journey stick, compass.

1 What shape are the leaves?
What texture are the leaves?

2 Are the edges of the leaves toothed or smooth?
Are the leaves symmetric or asymmetric?
Are the leaves alternative or opposite?

3 Why is it called the
trembling tree?

5

Activities:

1. Estimate the age of the tree
2. Measure the trunk of the tree and calculate the trees age
3. Take a rubbing of a leaf and the trunk
4. Take a leaf and add to your journey stick.