

# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

'Making Space for Nature' includes indoor and outdoor activities for pupils to enjoy engaging with the nature on their doorstep. This will inspire pupil creativity whilst encouraging outdoor learning and well-being as they explore their own naturehood.

## Activity 6: If trees could talk

Have you ever seen the face of a man in the moon or imagined animals in the clouds? On my lock-down walk, I spotted faces and mysteries in the trees! For this activity, in task 1 you will explore your own trees' mysteries and, in task 2, you will write a poem and create a class poet-tree.

### Task 1

Explore and imagine what characters or stories trees reveal. What would you call your tree? Here are some of mine. Can you help to finish naming them or imagine what they might say if they could talk? Can you think of another name? Write in the box below each tree.



**Eletrunk**



**Cuddles**  
**"Let's wrap"**

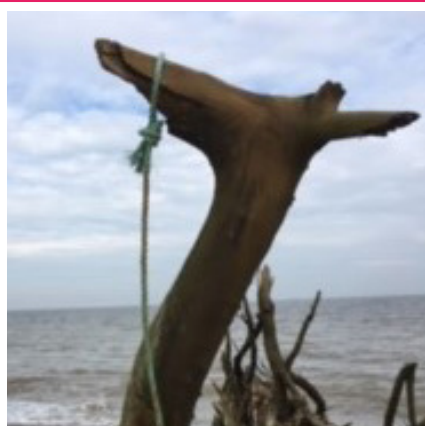


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## Activity 6: If trees could talk



**Dreamtime**  
"Listen peacefully."





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## Activity 6: If trees could talk

### Task 1 (continued)

Now it's your turn to go outside and explore what faces and mysteries your trees reveal! Look for strange shaped branches, knots (round markings) or holes in trunks, knobbly roots or items on a tree.



#### YOU WILL NEED:

- A camera (or phone camera or iPad)
- This sheet printed (or a notebook) to write your tree names down
- A pencil or pen

Take photos and write your trees' names and what they might say if they could talk here.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

## Activity 6: If trees could talk

### Task 2

In this activity, you will listen to and read a tree's poem - written as if the tree is talking. You will then write your own poem inspired by one of your trees. This might be added to a class 'Poet-tree' sharing with other pupils' poems.

The poet is imagining what it's like to be a tree who has a "date" with the season of spring which is about to arrive, so he's getting all dressed up (in new leaves). The poem is a celebration of the arrival of spring, while also making a little bit of fun of people who pay too much attention to their appearance with perfumes and cosmetics.

By clicking on the link below, you can listen to the Caribbean poet, John Agard, read his poem about a tree and read along.

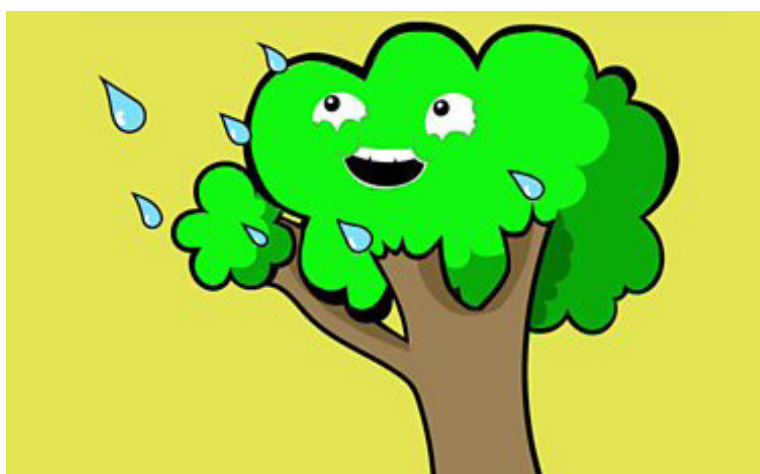
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p02x402x>

### 'Got a Date with Spring' by John Agard

Got a date with spring  
Got to look me best.  
Of all the trees  
I'll be the smartest dressed.

Perfumed breeze  
behind me ear.  
Pollen accessories  
all in place.  
Raindrop moisturizer  
for me face.  
Sunlight tints  
to spruce up the hair.  
What's the good of being a tree  
if you can't flaunt your beauty?

Winter, I was naked  
Exposed as can be.  
Me wardrobe took off  
with the wind.  
Life was a frosty slumber.  
Now, spring, here I come.  
Can't wait to slip in  
to me little green number.



**Poetry techniques** used here. Can you find them?

- Rhetorical question: "What's the good of being a tree if you can't flaunt your beauty?"
- Chatty, informal language: "Got a date with spring", "Now, spring, here I come."
- Informal "me" for "my" which reveals his Caribbean accent.
- Rhythm
- Rhyme: "best/dressed", "place/face", "tree/beauty", "slumber/number".

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### Task 2 (continued)

Write your own tree poem. You can imagine you are a tree or write about a tree. Remember to look at the poetry techniques in the box on page 4.

Illustrate your poem. Draw a picture of a tree or draw around your poem.

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Well done – we hope you enjoyed ‘making space for nature’!**

If you’re interested in other nature activities, you’ll find some here:

- [www.goingwild.net](http://www.goingwild.net)
- <https://www.facebook.com/goingwild/>
- <https://twitter.com/goingwildnet?lang=en-gb>
- <https://wildlifetrusts.org/>
- <https://www.backyardnature.org/resources/>
- <https://www.wwf.org.uk/things-to-do-home>
- <https://mailchi.mp/johnmuirtrust.org/wildinside>
- <https://woodlandtrust.org.uk/search/?q=children&p=1>
- <https://rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/>