

Beech Tree

Navan Education Centre Trail

General Information

The beech tree keeps growing until it is 120 years old! It can then go on to live for hundreds of years. Its wood is used for logs, furniture, bowls, spoons, tools and plywood. It is said that beech leaves make for great leaf mould as the roots go deep into the soil to collect nutrients.

Activity 1



- EQUIPMENT**
- Pencil
 - Clipboard
 - Blank Sheet
 - String
 - Ruler
 - R A Triangle
 - Graph Paper
 - Metre Stick

Activity 2

What shape are the leaves?
Oval Round

Oblong Triangular

How many lobes has a leaf?

A bird flying by would look down and see this part of

The tree. It is called the **canopy**.

Quick Questions

1.

- Are the veins on the leaves...
- Opposite
- Or
- Alternative

2.

What evidence can you find that insects depend on this tree?

3.

What is the Irish name for a beech tree?

Activity 3

Finding the Age of the Tree

STEP 1: Estimate the age of the tree.

STEP 2: Now to find the real age, measure the girth (width) 150cm from the ground.

STEP 3: Now divide the answer you got by 2.5 .

THE ACTUAL AGE =

Activity 4

How to Find the Area of the Canopy

- Place 8 sticks in the ground at points where the branches extend the furthest
- Use the metre stick to measure the distance of these points from the trunk.
- Plot them on the graph paper using a scale of 1m=1cm.

Did you know??

A tree in Ireland grows on average, about 2.5cm outwards per year!!!

Curriculum Links

Science Strand; Living things **Geography** Strand; Environmental Awareness and Care
Maths Strand; Number, Data
English Strand; Competence and Confidence Using Language
(Oral Language Reading, Writing)

Paul O'Donnell "Wild Teaching Cross-curricular Lessons Outdoors for Agoraphobic Teachers"

Activity 5

Sketch a leaf here

