

Autumn on the Waterways!

As we enter into the autumn months we start to notice the trees changing colour and the autumn leaves beginning to fall. It's a great time to get out and enjoy a colourful walk along your local waterway!

The trees along our waterways serve many purposes, for years they have been known to evoke folklore, inspire poets and writers as well as carry out many scientific functions. Trees act as great habitats for an array of insects and animals. Trees also provide us with food and shelter and oxygen to breathe while absorbing carbon dioxide.



Did you know?

Tree facts:

- Trees can live for thousands of years.
- On average a broad-leaved tree will absorb about 10kg of carbon dioxide gas per year.
- Some trees can grow to around 100 metres (328) feet in height!
- To protect the birds and wildlife that feed and shelter in trees, it is illegal in Ireland to cut hedges between March and August.
- The roots of trees usually grow underground, helping keep it stable and providing it with water and important nutrients.
- The Pain-killer aspirin comes originally from the bark of a willow tree.
- Wood from trees can be used in a number of different ways such as building materials and energy sources. You can probably see a lot of examples of products made from wood in your home e.g. tables, doors and chairs etc
- You can estimate the age of a tree by counting the rings found on the inside of its trunk





Make your own autumnal tree!



Now that we have learnt a bit more about trees why not create our own!

Follow the steps below and create some colourful autumnal trees by collecting some fallen leaves or by using paints and colouring pencils you have at home!



what you need to do:

1. Whether you are thinking of using paints or leaves get outdoors and enjoy a walk along your local waterway. Taking in all the autumnal colours you see along the way.
2. While you are out on your walk you can collect some fallen leaves and twigs you find on along the path.
3. When you have collected all the materials you need begin by drawing the trunk of your tree. You can use colouring pencils, paints or twigs to do this.
4. Once you have finished the trunk of the tree you can start sticking on the leaves you picked along the walk or drawing/painting them on.
5. Tag us in the photos of you getting involved! We love to see people enjoying our resources. So make sure to tag us: @waterwaysireland #WIEducationProgramme

