

THE MEMORABLE TREE

GOAL: Pupils map important trees around their school, organise a tree of the year competition around their school and, possibly, try to have the winner be given a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

WHO: 13 to adults

TIME: One month

WHERE: Community

WHEN: All year round

YOU NEED: Camera, office supplies, tools for measuring trees



- Map the important trees in your area and organise a competition for the most significant tree with your classmates or members of your community. Then apply to have the winning tree and the honourable mentions from the competition granted a Tree Preservation Order. Your local planning authority (or local council) will be happy to advise you on how to proceed. Trees in a town, city or countryside have an irreplaceable aesthetic, play a role in air-conditioning, are islands of biodiversity as well as sinks for carbon storage. Lots of carbon needs to be sequestered, it makes sense to point this out and to protect trees from unnecessary felling or careless handling.
- The guidelines for a Tree Preservation Order are usually outlined in the laws for nature and landscape protection. These laws provide, within the framework of special nature protection, specific protection for important trees, groups of trees and tree alleyways which have been declared protected by the competent nature protection authority. A tree is protected by the state because of its cultural, historical, social or aesthetic significance, and not because it is a certain tree species.

MAP THE TREES

Find 10–20 trees in your area which you think are important from a cultural, historical, climatic, social or aesthetic standpoint. Your goal is to work out the following tasks and by the end of June put the selected trees with their particulars and photos into a map that you create together.

You can also find information on the website:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/protecting-trees-and-woods/campaign-with-us/campaign-in-your-community/tree-preservation-orders/>

EVALUATE TREES

Identify the tree characteristics below and describe the tree. Of course, you are not a tree expert, therefore your description will be approximate and you are doing it to try out the role of arborists:

- type of tree (common name and taxonomic name)
- trunk circumference at a height of 1.3 m above the ground and the height of the tree
- estimated age of the tree (estimate, ask people, look for similar trees of known age)
- **VITALITY**, health and stability of the tree (see description and table)
- location (by entering it on the map)
- the importance of the tree (e.g. a certain legend is attached to the tree)
- photo documentation of the tree and its surroundings

● VITALITY

1. Excellent to slightly reduced
2. Clearly reduced (stagnation of growth, deterioration of the crown in peripheral areas)
3. Significantly reduced (significant damage to the crown, dead crown top)
4. Residual vitality (most of the crown dead)
5. Dry tree

● HEALTH CONDITION

1. Excellent to good
2. Deteriorated (mechanical disturbance of a significant nature)
3. Significantly worsened (presence of damage reducing the life of the evaluated individual)
4. Severely disturbed (concurrency of defects or the presence of damage significantly reducing the living of the evaluated individual)
5. Decaying / decayed tree (current risk of decay, or decayed individual)



● STABILITY

1. Excellent to good
2. Deteriorated (developing significant small-scale defects without acute effect on tree stability)
3. Significantly worsened (presence of significant defects of a larger extent, often requiring stabilising intervention)
4. Severely disturbed (presence of significant defects of a larger extent or concurrency of defects significantly reducing the stability of the individual, requiring stabilising intervention)
5. Emergency risk (acute risk of failure without the possibility of revitalisation by stabilising intervention)

TREE ID	VITALITY	HEALTH CONDITION	STABILITY
LINDEN 1	2	3	5
LINDEN 2	1	1	1
BIRCH 3	1	1	1
HORNBEAM 4	1	1	1
LARCH 5	1	1	1
ASH 6	1	1	1
PINE 7	1	1	1
MAPLE 8	1	1	2
SPRUCE 9	1	1	1
ELM 10	1	1	1

Table: Assign numbers referring to the description to individual tree species (see above). Example. Linden_1 shows markedly reduced vitality, significantly worsened health and, in terms of stability, the tree was evaluated as emergency.

PROMOTE TREES THROUGH VOTING

Hold a regional vote for the tree of the year, we leave the form to you. We recommend that you ask the locally competent nature protection authority to issue a tree protection order. It would be great for this competition to be presented within the whole school (or the whole community) and you would inform them that you want to find trees that are worth legal protection.

REFLECTING AND PICNIC

At the end of your work, meet again in your "work team" and look back together. What happened, what was successful, what should be done differently next time, what impact did the event have, and whether, where and when to repeat it. It is ideal to also meet as a wider team at a joint celebration, such as a picnic under the trees or other festivity. It's great to combine the meetings in the community with food and informal conversation.

EVALUATION OF THE GOAL'S OBJECTIVE (EVIDENCE OF LEARNING)

- Pupils mapped trees in the wider vicinity of the school and observed the importance of trees to the city and the countryside.
- Pupils searched for tree stories, organised polls, did promotion of both the trees and the event (to raise public awareness).
- The pupils conducted an administrative process to ensure the winner had a tree protection order.

