

Nova's Autumn Discovery Fact-File

Learning objective: To observe and describe the life cycles of deciduous trees and the seasonal changes during autumn.

Help Nova the owl gather data for her autumn research. Find a deciduous tree near your school or home and fill in this fact-file based on your observations of how the tree is preparing for winter.

Word bank: deciduous · chlorophyll · photosynthesis · dormant · nutrient · seasonal · adaptation

1. Tree Identification: Describe the appearance of the leaves on your chosen tree. What colour are they, and what shape do they have? (2 marks)

2. The Changing Process: Why do you think the leaves are changing colour? Explain the process using the term 'chlorophyll'. (3 marks)

3. Energy Storage: How do deciduous trees store energy to help them survive the winter months when there is less sunlight? (3 marks)

4. Observation Log: Look at the ground beneath the tree. What do you notice happening to the fallen leaves, and why is this important for the soil? (2 marks)

5. Future Prediction: Based on what you know about the life cycle of a tree, what will happen to this tree when spring arrives? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research what it means for a tree to become 'dormant' and write a short poem from the perspective of the tree waiting for spring, just like Leo the lion would do.