

# Questacon at HOME

## Activity sheet – Autumn

### Exploring Autumn Leaves

In the autumn some leaves on the trees change colour. Do all the trees change colour? Trees with leaves that change colour are called deciduous trees and trees that don't change colour are called evergreen trees. What different colours do you see on deciduous trees in autumn? Does anything else fall off the trees in the autumn?

#### You will need:

- White Paper
- Coloured crayons, use autumn colours like red, yellow and orange. (remove the paper around the crayon)
- A collection of autumn leaves from your garden or local area

#### Leaf Rubbing:

##### What to do:

- Lay the leaves flat on a table, making sure the veiny side is up. Discuss what the leaf uses its veins for.
- Place a sheet of paper on top of the leaf. An adult might need to hold it in place so that it doesn't move during the rubbing.
- Choose a crayon of an autumn colour (i.e. red, yellow or orange). Lay the crayon flat on the paper and colour over the top of the leaf to make a rubbing.
- Make a variety of leaf rubbings with different sized and shaped leaves using different autumn colours. Then cut them out and add a tree trunk to make your own autumn tree inside.

#### What's happening?

When you use a crayon to rub over the top of the leaves, you get an imprint of the leaf. You can see all the veins in the leaf. The tree uses its veins to "suck up" water into the leaves. You can see this in action by putting the leafy top of a piece of celery into coloured water.



## Activity sheet – Autumn

### Sorting Leaves and Seeds:

#### What to do:

- Go for a walk in your local area and collect different types of leaves and seeds.
- Explore the difference between all the leaves you have collected. What shape, colour and size are they?
- Sort the leaves into different groups. What are some similarities and differences between the leaves? (I.e. shape, size and colour). What groups could you sort them into?
- Repeat the process for the seeds you've collected. What are some similarities and differences between the seeds? (I.e. shape and size). What groups could you sort them into?
- Discuss why trees have leaves and seeds? Why do you think they fall off the tree in the autumn?

#### What's happening?

Leaves gather sunlight, and allow air and water to enter the plant. Veins in leaves allow water and nutrients to travel through the plant. Seeds are integral to the lifecycle of plants, they drop from a plant to the ground and with water, nutrients and sunlight can be germinated and begin to grow into new plants.

Sorting and categorising is an excellent science activity for young children. It encourages them to think about similarities and differences between objects. It allows them to expand their thinking, explore how one object can have many different defining features and make decisions about how to categorise objects based on their different physical characteristics. You can encourage your child to sort and categorise all sorts of things around the house or in the garden.

#### Discover more:

- Watch Questacon's early childhood Science Time Autumn episode on Questacon's YouTube channel to discover why leaves change colour in the autumn time.
- Look for worms in the garden. Worms are composters that eat the fallen autumn leaves and turn them into compost to help the tree grow during the winter. You could make a worm farm or a compost garden. You can buy worms online if you can't find enough in your garden.

