



NATURAL LOOSE PARTS IN AUTUMN

EMPOWER YOURSELF AND SHARE THE WISDOM

The more we know about the things that we have collected from nature, the more we can share with children and inspire their natural curiosity. Have fun creating opportunities for yourself and children to inquire together and ask who, why, what, where and how.

Looking down at your feet as you take an autumn walk can reveal the most interesting items of varying colours and textures. On closer inspection you may wonder what it is, where it has come from or how it is used.

The following labels can be used to support incidental learning and intentional teaching. These will support to add value, meaning and depth to your findings and investigations as they evolve through this glorious season.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE NPSA TEAM

There are times during play to observe and be sensitive in your presence, recognising the process of play and resisting the urge to interrupt or step in too soon. However, through my experience of learning through others, I realise that there are also times to share, inspire and impart our knowledge and wisdom. This enables children to share, apply and adapt their learning, taking it wherever their curiosity and imaginations desire. ~ Lisa

FIVE FACTS ABOUT SEED PODS (KURRAJONGS)

- 1 The Kurrajong tree is native to Western Australia.
- 2 It has seed pods shaped like a boat and contain around 20 yellow hairy seeds.
- 3 Aboriginal people ate the seeds and used the bark to make baskets, fishing line and nets.
- 4 The Kurrajong tree is a favourite place for the Tailed Emperor Butterfly.
- 5 The Kurrajong Tree does not catch on fire as easily as some other trees.

TAKE ACTION

Plant a Kurrajong tree for our Tailed Emperor Butterflies

FIVE FACTS ABOUT GUM NUTS

- 1 A gum tree can live to well over 600 years old and can have lots of tree hollows for possums and birds like Cockatoos to live in.
- 2 A gum tree flower must be visited by a bee for it to turn into a gum nut.
- 3 Koalas love to eat certain gum leaves and often sleep in a gum tree for up to 22 hours each day! They need to rest so that their bodies can digest all the gum leaves that they've eaten.
- 4 All gum tree flowers have a hat.
- 5 Aboriginal people used gum trees, such as red gums to make canoes and shields.

TAKE ACTION

Plant a gum tree for all our wildlife to enjoy

FIVE FACTS ABOUT SHEOAKS

- 1 Sheoak cones are a spikey woody fruit.
- 2 Glossy black cockatoos crush the cones held in their claws and use their strong bill to eat the seeds inside.
- 3 All Sheoaks with a cone are female.
- 4 Sheoak leaves are tiny teeth.
- 5 Aboriginal people use Sheoaks for tools and food.

TAKE ACTION

Plant a Sheoak tree in your garden for the black cockatoos

FIVE FACTS ABOUT BARK

- 1 Bark falls off trees to help it stay healthy.
- 2 As the tree grows it sheds old layers of bark from its trunk or branches.
- 3 Bark on trees is like a city for insects and spiders.
- 4 Some bark is rough, stringy, spiky or smooth.
- 5 Birds with special beaks strip bark to get insects for food.

TAKE ACTION

How many trees can you find with bark of different textures?
Keeping the bark on the tree keeps the insects there for the birds to eat.

FIVE FACTS ABOUT LEAVES

- 1 Leaves make their own food from the sun. That is why they are green.
- 2 Lots of caterpillars eat leaves, especially gum tree leaves.
- 3 Aboriginal people used leaves on shelters to keep the rain out.
- 4 Most trees that drop their leaves in autumn came from overseas.
- 5 Over winter trees that lose their leaves go into a deep sleep.

TAKE ACTION

Plant native trees to help keep our caterpillars, moths and butterflies happy

FIVE FACTS ABOUT PINE CONES

- 1 Pine cones are full of seeds that Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos love to eat.
- 2 Pine trees grow fast and are tall, straight trees.
- 3 Wood from pine trees is used to make furniture and paper.
- 4 Mushrooms and fungi love to grow in pine forests.
- 5 Pine trees are evergreen trees. Their leaves stay on the tree all year round.

TAKE ACTION

Plant native trees to help keep our caterpillars, moths and butterflies happy



GUM NUTS

(Blue Gum tree)

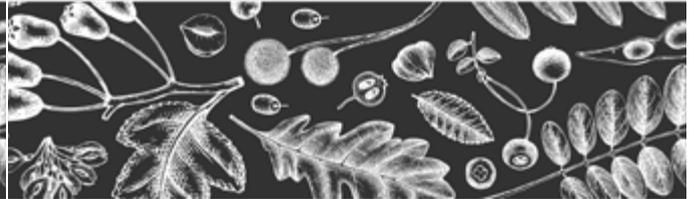


SEED PODS

(Kurrajong tree)

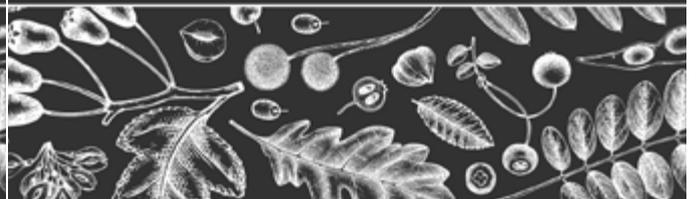


AUTUMN LEAVES



PINE CONES

(Pine tree)



BARK

(Gum tree)

CONES

(Sheoak tree)

