# English oak

Quercus robur

LOOK FOR A COMBINATION

Leaves have rounded lobes, very short stalks and small lobes at the base. Acorns are carried on long stalks. Bare twigs often end in clusters of buds. Older bark develops deep grooves.

Jays and squirrels use acorns. Leaves feed insects, which may be eaten by other animals. Cavities, crevices and dead wood can provide habitat.

CHECK YOUR IDEA

Other oak species and hybrids occur in Britain. Compare several features, including acorn stalks, before naming the species.

FOLLOW A SPECIFIC FEATURE

How does the acorn attach to the twig? Compare its long stalk with the very short leaf stalk.



English oak: rounded leaf lobes and young acorns on stalks. Photo: Mannivu (CC BY-SA 4.0).

**Photographic guide: English oak**

# Where did the apple go?

You might need: A camera or dated apple photographs. Choose fruit that can remain undisturbed.

FOLLOW A FALLEN FRUIT

Use landmarks to find the same apple again. Photograph colour, shape, position and visible visitors without touching damaged or mouldy fruit.

WHAT MIGHT EXPLAIN A CHANGE?

Drying can shrivel fruit; organisms can break it down. Animals, people or movement can remove it. Look for clues before choosing an explanation.

COMPARE AND SHARE

Follow a second apple if useful. Note its starting condition, shade and surroundings. Make a dated picture sequence with dictated, spoken or written captions.

MORE DEPTH

What extra observation might help explain a change? Try a closer photograph or a different visit time. Leave fruit in place and wash hands after handling other natural materials.



Fallen apples among leaf litter. Photo: Kolforn (Wikimedia), CC BY-SA 4.0.

# A rubbing as a way to look

You might need: A checked fallen leaf, paper and a broad crayon. Prepare a firm surface with the leaf’s raised veins upwards.

TRY THE TECHNIQUE

Place paper over the leaf and rub gently with the crayon’s side. An adult can hold materials or work as directed.

CHOOSE A QUESTION

Does turning the leaf over change the marks? What happens with thicker paper? Change one feature at a time to compare.

CHOOSE A USEFUL RECORD

Rubbings reveal veins and edges. Photographs also show colour. Compare a rubbing, drawing and photograph of the same leaf: which best answers your question?

MORE DEPTH

Could someone recognise a vein pattern from your rubbing? Look together for supporting detail. Making may also lead to imaginative play; a finished booklet is optional.



A leaf rubbing in progress. WTWOL photograph.