

Trees Information Sheet

Broadleaved Trees

The trees in the park were planted in recent years and are therefore only young, small trees. Trees can be divided into two main groups: (a) Conifers and (b) broadleaved trees. (a) Conifer trees have thin leaves sometimes called "needles". An example of a conifer tree is the Sitka Spruce that we often use as a Christmas tree. (b) The trees in the park are all broadleaved trees. The term "broadleaved" means that the leaves of these trees are flat and wide. The leaves of most broadleaved trees die and fall off the trees in autumn and are therefore called "deciduous" trees. One of the broadleaved trees in the park, the holly, does not lose its leaves in autumn and therefore it is called an "evergreen" tree.

Native Trees

A native tree is a type of tree that has been growing in Ireland since the last Ice Age. Native trees provide the best homes for our wildlife, compared to non-native trees. Many of the trees in the park are native as indicated on the tree chart [3.1.].


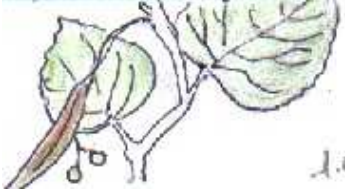
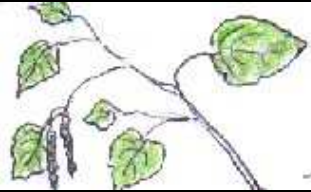





Trees for a Healthy Planet

All trees play an important role in taking in and storing carbon from our atmosphere. Carbon in the form of carbon dioxide gas in the air is one of the gases that traps the heat energy of the sun and is having a bad effect on the Earth's climate. Trees take in carbon dioxide gas during the day and store it away for a long time. Trees release another gas, called oxygen, during the night for us to breathe.

How to Identify Trees:

There is a wide range of trees in Ireland and it is difficult to get to know about them all. There are many ways of identifying trees such as using their basic tree shape, their leaf shape, their budding twigs or their bark texture and colour. By using this pack you will be able to identify a few of our more common trees by identifying their **leaf shape** for Spring and Summer visits to the park [Sheet 3.1.]

Trees Identification Chart

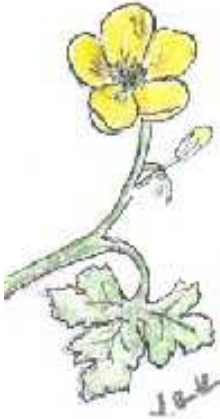







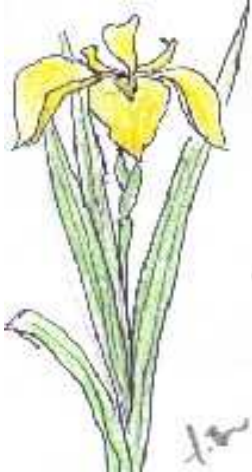

Tree	The Leaf and fruit	Information
Oak [Native]		Hundreds of years ago, most of Ireland was covered in oak trees. The oak can grow tall and very old, sometimes as high as 45m. One old oak tree can give a home to almost 500 different types of wildlife.
Common Lime [Not Native]		The common lime tree can grow into a tall 40m tree. Lime trees are often planted along the avenues of large mansions as well as in parks. Lime trees are fast growing and like most types of soil. Their leaves are lime green in spring.
Silver Birch [Native]		The beautiful Silver Birch grows wild in our bogs and on our mountains but is also planted along our streets and in our Parks. Birch timber is used for making plywood.
Horse chestnut [Not Native]		The leaves of the horse chestnut are made up of 7 leaflets that meet in the centre of the leaf so that it looks like a hand. It produces conkers that are its seeds. Although it is a well-known tree in Ireland, it is not native.
Willow [Native]		There are 34 types of willow in Ireland. Male and female catkins grow on different trees. Willow grows best on damp soils. The young branches, known as osiers, are woven to make many different things including baskets and wicker chairs.
Alder [Native]		This tree grows in swampy places beside streams and lakes, but not in peat bogs. Its leaves are nearly circular. Its female catkins look like miniature cones. The alder grows quickly but remains a small tree of less than 20m usually.
Field Maple [Not Native]		The field maple is a small tree with small leaves and therefore was commonly used in hedges. It has been used for hedging in Loughnaneane Park. It is related to the sycamore and produces a similar looking "helicopter" double seed.
Holly [Native]		Holly is an evergreen, small tree that produces distinctive red berries in Winter. It is a native, slow growing tree and can measure up to 20 m in height.

Parkland Plants

The green areas of the park have many more plants growing in them than just grass! If you stoop down and take a closer look you will discover many other small plants hidden among the grass plants. Use the pictures below to help you to get to know the shapes, colours and maybe even the names of a few of them.

Did you know that plants make their own food? By using energy from the sun, plants mix three ingredients together to make their own food supply. The three ingredients plants use = 1. carbon dioxide from the air with 2. water and 3. special chemicals [nutrients] from the soil,. This process is called photosynthesis.

Parkland Plants Information and Identification Sheet

<p>Buttercup</p> 	<p>Plantain</p> 	<p>Clover</p> 	<p>Daisy</p> 	<p>Nettle</p> 
<p>Ragged Robin</p> 	<p>Dandelion</p> 	<p>Cowslip</p> 	<p>Iris</p> 	<p>Speedwell</p> 

Pond Life

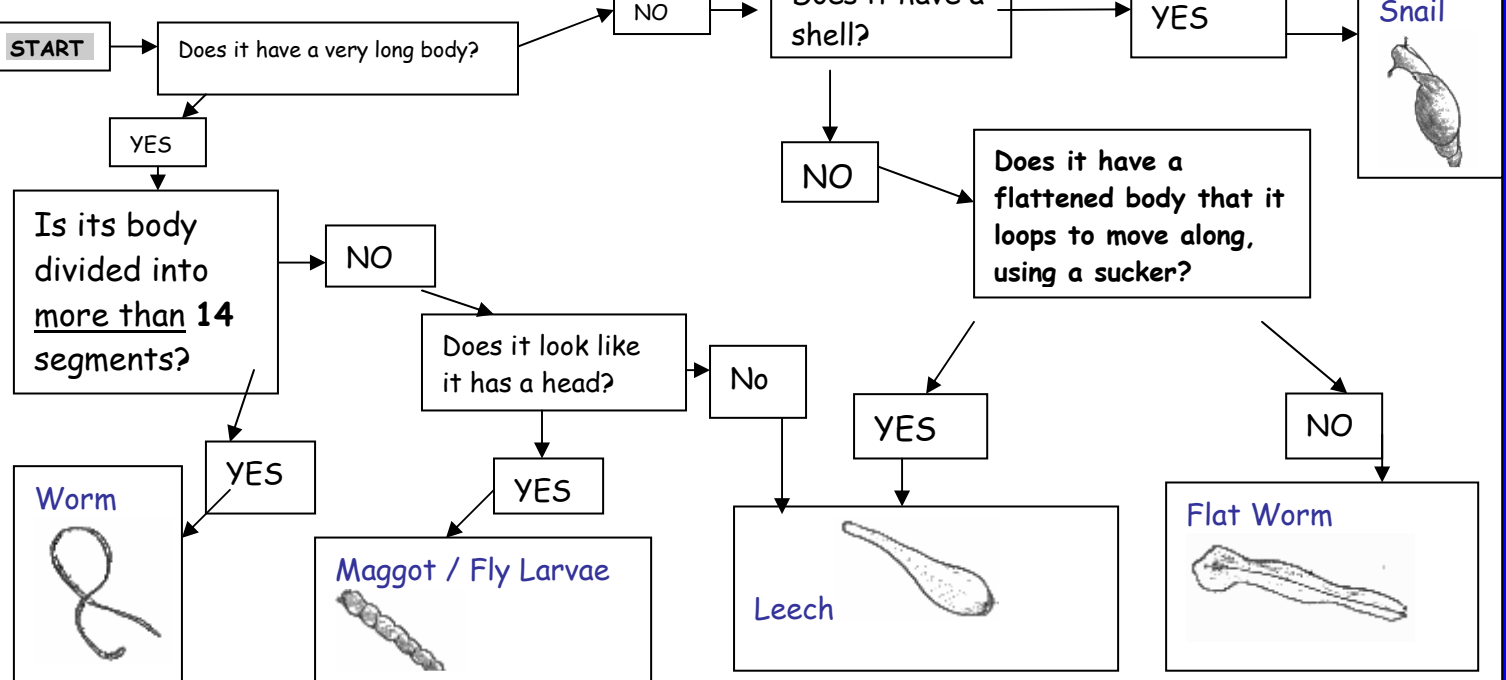
The pond is located close to the centre of the park. It is an ideal location to explore some of the small aquatic animals of the park using the basic POND DIPPING method outlined below. In addition pupils will be able to observe the colourful mallard ducks swimming on the pond.

Loughnaneane Park Pond Life Information & Identification Key Chart

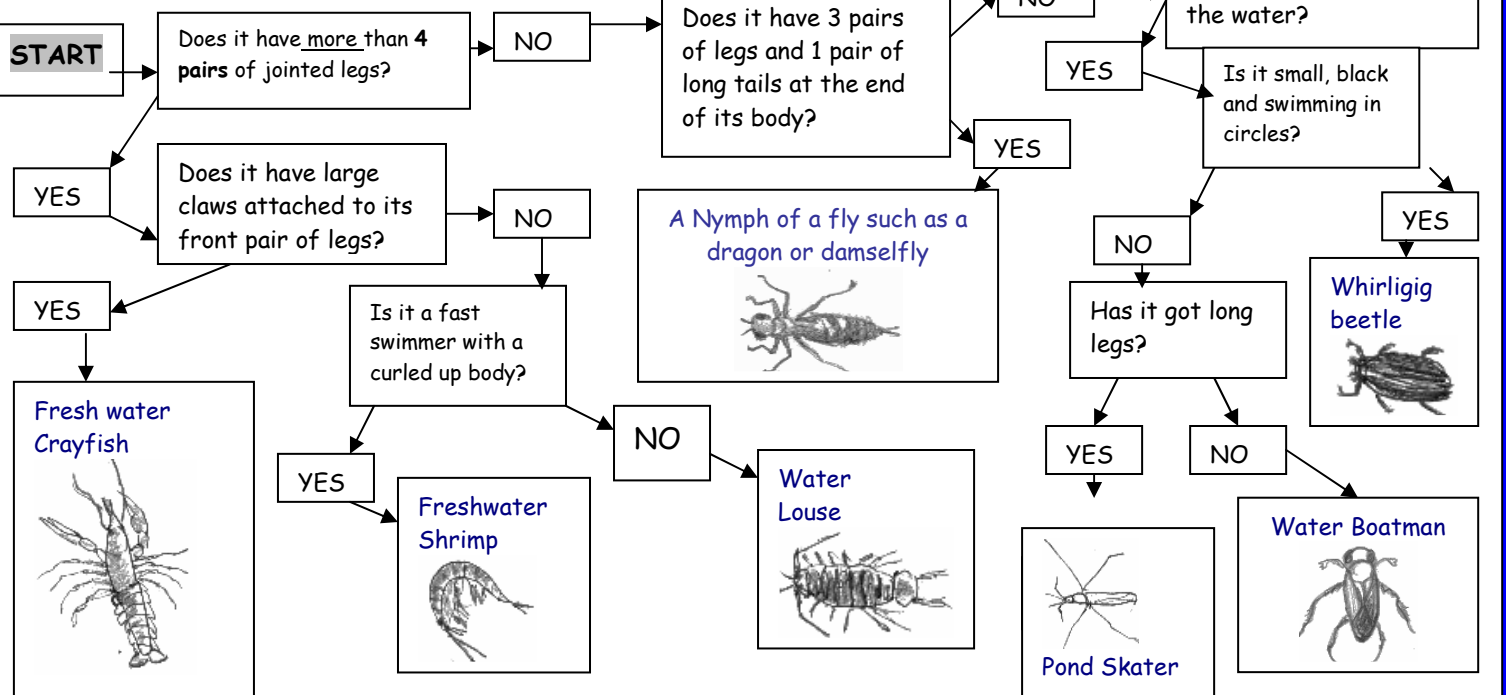
Use sheet **A.** if your mini beast has **NO** legs.

Use sheet **B.** if your mini beast **HAS** legs.

A. These mini beats have **NO LEGS**:








B. These mini Beasts **HAVE LEGS**:










Mini beasts Identification Key



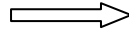





A. This identification chart is for mini beasts with NO LEGS:

It's Body ➡	Fat and Slimy		Long, Round and Thin		
Look more closely to see if it has: ➡	No Shell ↓	Has Shell ↓	White, very small, almost see through, with no segments. ↓	Can be white, brown, green or orange with less than 15 segments. ↓	Reddish brown with more than 15 segments. ↓
Then it's a: ➡	Slug	Snail	Roundworm	Maggot	Earth Worm
This mini beast looks like this: ➡					

B. This identification chart is for mini beasts with ONLY 6 LEGS:

It's Body ➡	Is very small [the size of a crumb of bread] ⬇		Has pincers at the back ⬇	Has a shiny, hard cover that is in 2 parts ⬇		Has wings ⬇	
Did you notice this? ➡	Is very good at jumping! ↓	Has a very thin waist. ↓	Is shiny and orange-brown in colour ↓	Cover is rounded ↓	Cover is diamond shaped ↓	Wings are see through ↓	Large, colourful wings ↓
Therefore it's a: ➡	Springtail	Ant	Earwig	Beetle: e.g. Ground beetle or Ladybird	Bug: e.g. Shield bug	Fly	Butterfly or Moth
This mini beast looks like this: ➡							

C. This chart is for mini beasts with MORE THAN 6 LEGS:

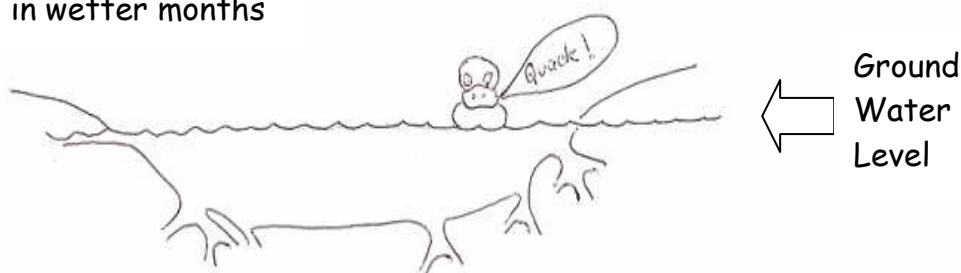
Number of Legs: 	6 + 4 false legs	8 legs	12 - 16 legs	Many legs: 2 per segment	Many legs: 4 per segment
Then it's a: 	Caterpillar	Spider	Woodlouse	Centipede	Millipede
This mini beast looks like this: 					

Turlough Information Sheet

Turloughs are disappearing lakes!! Turloughs are only found in Ireland and only in some special areas of Ireland, such as County Roscommon, that are sitting on top of a type of rock called limestone. Limestone can be dissolved by rainwater. Sometimes the rainwater can dissolve deep holes into the limestone rock, called swallow holes, so that a whole lake full of water can disappear down these swallow holes - this is what happens to a type of lake called a turlough. The word turlough comes from two Irish words - "tur", meaning dry and "lough" meaning lake. The water only comes back into the turlough during the wet winter weather when the water levels rise so much that the water is pushed back up through the holes in the limestone to form a lake again. During the drier months of the year as the water gradually starts to disappear out of the turlough, different plants are found at the different water levels that are created as the lake empties. Some of the **plants** found in Loughnaneane turlough include: Yellow 'Flag' Iris, Cowslip, Silverweed, Daisy, Creeping Buttercup as well as a variety of grasses and sedges. [\[See Plant Identification sheet\]](#)

There are also some **amphibians** to be found in the turlough including frogs and newts.

Turlough in wetter months



Turlough in drier months



Bird Life Information Sheet

Loughnaneane Turlough is a very important place (habitat) for birds. The name "Loughnaneane" comes from Irish; Lough, meaning lake and na naeane meaning ; of the birds. The park has an excellent display board that shows both the names and beautifully painted pictures by Gordon D'Arcy of the birds that visit the turlough. Some of the birds travel from other countries to spend the Winter in Roscommon. Birds on the display board clockwise from the top left corner: Black-headed Gull, Curlew, Dunlin, Golden Plover, Redshank, Lapwing, Whooper Swan , Shoveler, Meadow Pipit, Mallard, Wigeon, Snipe, Mute Swan, Snipe, Teal, Reed Bunting,



Birds Display Board.