

School Holiday activity pack

Autumn 2024

Follow your curiosity, explore, and earn hours!



Hello autumn!



In many parts of the world, the year is made up of four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Each season has its own weather patterns and they match to particular months of the year.

In Australia, it is autumn in the months of March, April and May. Did you know that in some places around the world autumn is called 'fall'? Can you guess why that is?

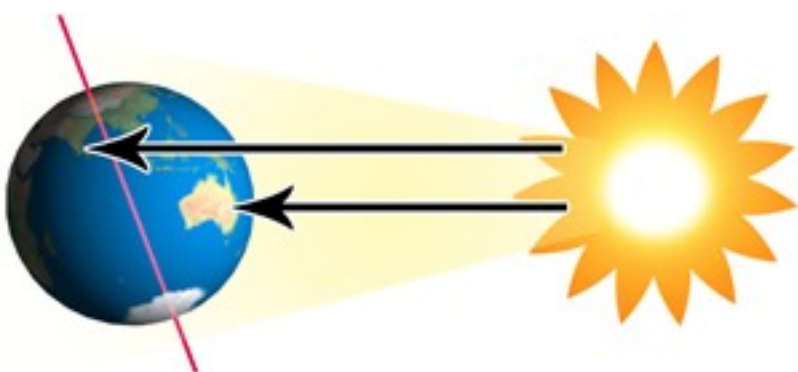
The weather gets cooler in autumn and the days get shorter. The leaves on many trees start to change colour and then fall to the ground. Have you ever walked down a street that was covered in orange, yellow and brown leaves? It's fun!

Animals put on weight to prepare for the colder months when there may not be as much food to eat. Fruits, such as apples and pears, are ready to be picked and eaten.

Why do we have different seasons?

The Earth tilts on an angle as it orbits the sun. This means that during different parts of the year either the northern hemisphere (the top half of the world) or southern hemisphere (the bottom half of the world) will lean closer to the sun. The part leaning closer to the sun will have more light and heat (this will be the warmer months). The part leaning away from the sun will have less light and heat (the cooler months).

In Australia, we are leaning closer to the sun in the summer months of December, January and February, but in other countries this is different. Countries in the northern hemisphere (such as America, Canada and England) have summer in June, July and August.





Leaf animals

PASSPORT

Earn up to 1 hour
in your passport!

You'll need:

A selection of leaves

A4 or A3 paper

Glue

Pens and pencils

Black and white paper

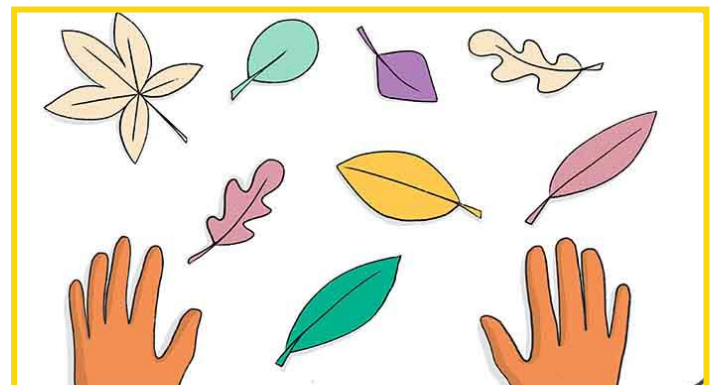
Scissors

Kitchen roll

Heavy books

TIP!

Be safe! Wash
your hands after
collecting leaves



Step 1

Go outside and collect lots of leaves. Choose leaves of different colours, shapes and sizes.

Step 2

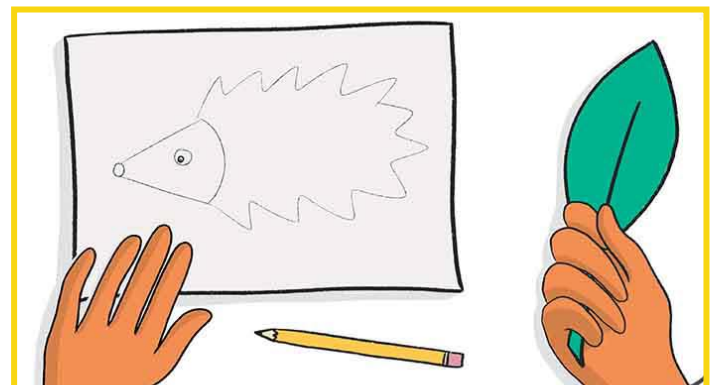
If you want to flatten the leaves between some kitchen roll and stack a heavy book on top. Leave for a few hours or overnight. If you don't, then jump to step 3.

Step 3

Spread the leaves out on a table and look closely at the shapes, sizes and colours. What animals do they make you think of?

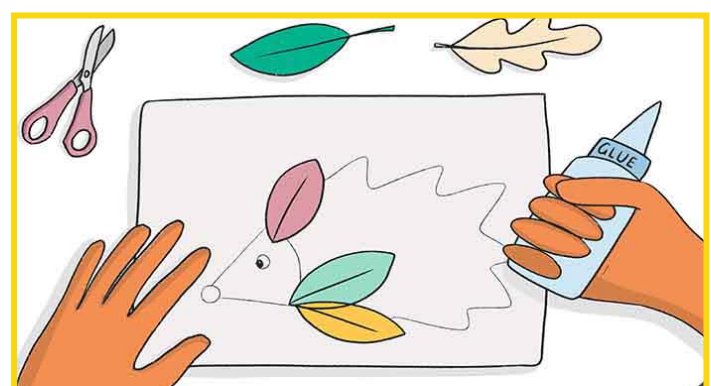
Step 4

Decide on your animal and sketch the shape on A4 paper. Look at the leaves closely and select leaves which help create the shapes of your animal.



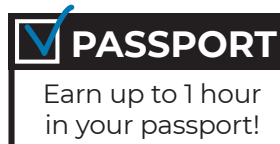
Step 5

Stick the leaves over your sketch with glue. You can use scissors to trim the leaves and add details.





Playdough



Make your own no-cook playdough. Then use the playdough to make your leaf animal in 3D!

You'll need:

2 cups of flour

1/2 cup of salt

1 cup of hot water (possibly 1/2 cup more) – ask an adult to help with hot water

2 tbs of cooking oil

2 tbs of cream of tartar

Food colouring (optional)

TIP!

This playdough is safe to play with, but it's not edible!

How to make it:

(with an adult supervising)

1. Combine all the dry ingredients in a bowl, and make a well (or a hole) in the centre.
2. Add the cooking oil and food colouring to the dry ingredients.
3. Add water and stir to form the playdough! Knead your playdough until you reach your desired consistency!

Let your play dough rest for a few minutes if it is too sticky. If it is still too wet, add just 1/4 cup of flour and knead through.

Store it in an airtight container to help it stay fresh longer. It will last even longer (up to a month) if you keep it in the fridge!

Make your leaf animal

Now that your play dough is ready to use, make a 3D version of your leaf animal (from the activity before this one).

Can you create your own animal? How about combining different animal parts – e.g. a lion's mane with a bird's body?



Government House Tasmania



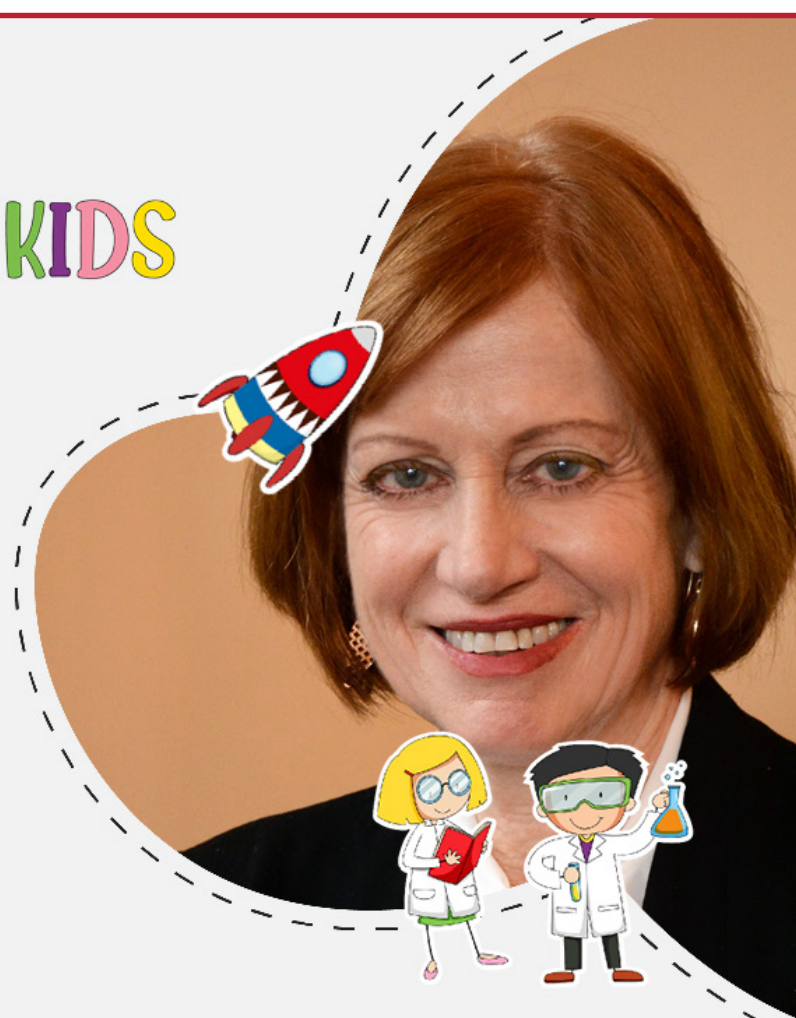
UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA
— Peter Underwood Centre

UCTV
ALIVE FOR KIDS

EPISODE 29

Government House Tasmania

Her Excellency the Honourable
Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania



Watch the video

If you can't visit the Portal, scan the QR code, or visit: youtu.be/regBT0Nt_al



Complete this activity

Complete this activity via the Portal. Scan the QR code, or visit:

cuaportal.com/activities/government-house-uctv-alive-for-kids-episode-29-cu-tasmania/

Questions

- What are the names of Her Excellency's dogs?
- Have you ever visited Government House?
- What did you notice in the video of the tour of Government House?
- You might have noticed some lovely pictures created by children. You might like to make your own picture, inspired by this session.



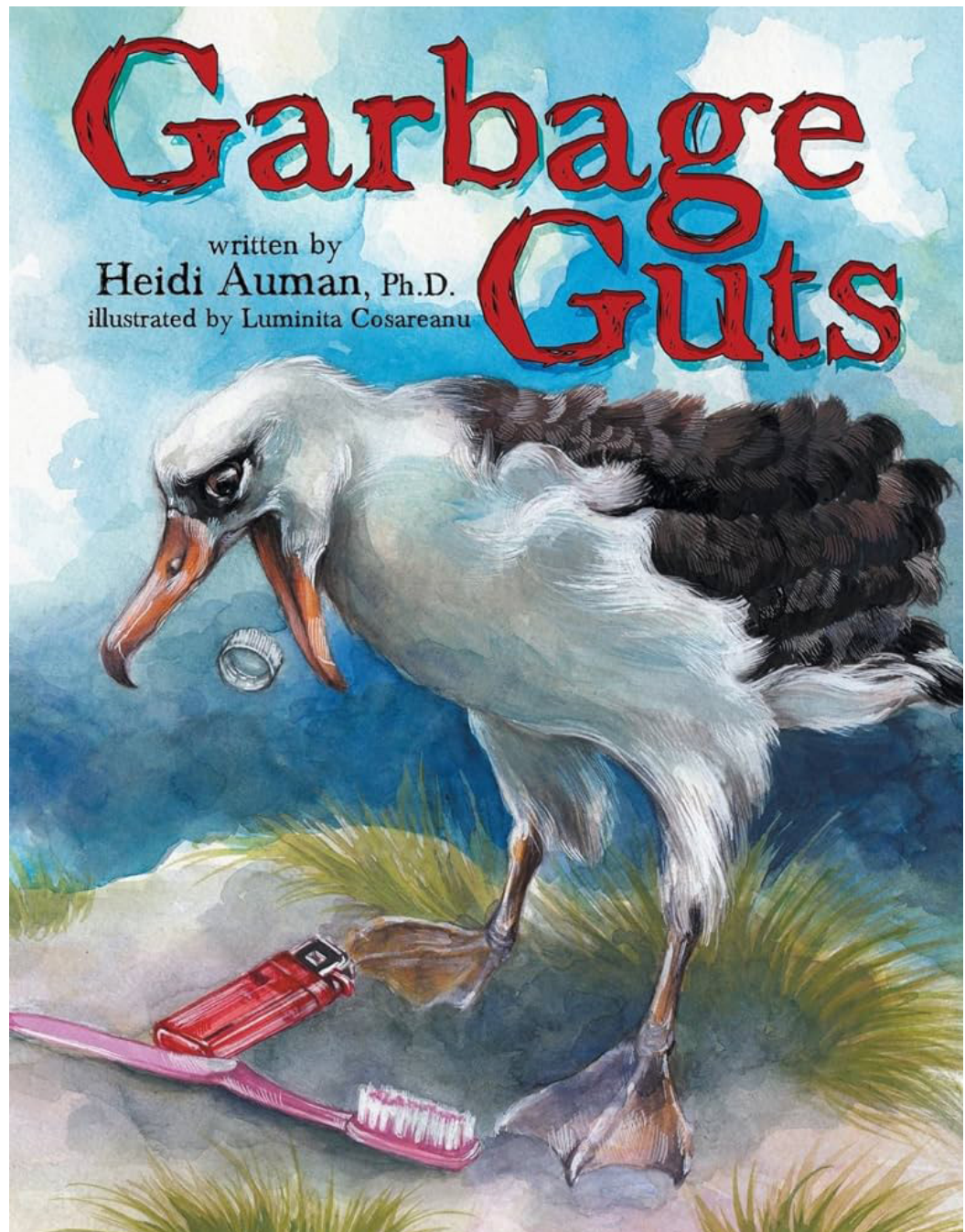
Portal Activity – Garbage Guts

PASSPORT

Earn up to 1 hour
in your passport!

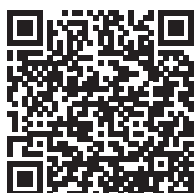
Dr Heidi is a Tasmanian researcher who studies seabirds. She has found they eat a lot of plastic that humans have thrown away.

To share her passion for looking after seabirds and the planet, Heidi wrote a children's book called Garbage Guts.



TIP!

You can earn hours
by joining your
local library



Complete this activity

Complete this activity via the Portal. Scan the QR code, or visit:
cuaportal.com/activities/garbage-guts-plastic-in-seabirds/



Book review



Have you read or listened to a book lately? Tell us about it!

What book did you read/listen to?

Who is the author of the book?

List the main characters in the book:

Why did you choose to read/listen to this book?

What was your favourite part of the book? Why?

Who was your favourite character? Why?

If you could change one thing about the book, what would it be?

Draw your own cover for this book:

Rating (colour the stars): ☆☆☆☆☆



Movie/TV show review

 **PASSPORT**

Earn 30 minutes
in your passport!

Have you watched a movie or TV show lately? Tell us about it!

What movie/TV show did you watch?

What is the movie/TV show genre (e.g. comedy, action, romance, etc)?

List the main characters in the movie/TV show:

Tell us about the plot of the movie/TV show:

Why did you choose to watch this movie/TV show?

Give three reasons you liked this movie/TV show:

Who was your favourite character? Why?

If you could change one thing about the movie/TV show, what would it be?

Draw a picture of your favourite character:

Rating (colour the stars): ☆☆☆☆☆



ANZAC biscuits



During the First World War (1914-1918), there were lots of ingredients that were hard to buy or you weren't able to have very much of them, so ANZAC biscuits were invented.

They used ingredients that people could get and did not need eggs like some biscuits do. The recipe has probably changed a bit over time, but today this recipe is what we use to make ANZAC biscuits.

You'll need:

2 cups rolled oats

2 cups plain flour

2 cups coconut

1 1/2 cups sugar

250g butter

4 tbs golden syrup

1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

2 tbs boiling water

HAVE A GO!
Make some yourself and tell us what you think!

Instructions:

(with an adult supervising)

1. Turn oven to 160°C. Lightly grease oven trays or line them with baking paper
2. Place oats, flour, coconut and sugar in a big mixing bowl.
3. Melt butter and golden syrup in saucepan on stove or in microwave safe bowl in the microwave. Ask an adult to help or watch you do this.
4. Mix baking soda and boiling water in a cup. Add to the pot or bowl of melted butter mixture. Ask an adult to help or watch you do this.
5. Pour the butter mixture into the dry ingredients bowl. Stir to mix it together.
6. Take a tablespoonful of the mixture and place onto tray. Flatten down a little with your hand or a fork. Space the dough about 5cm apart.
7. Cook the biscuits for about 15-20 minutes (The longer you cook them, the crunchier they will be – you want them to be golden brown).
8. Ask an adult to help you take the biscuits out of the oven
9. Leave biscuits to cool on trays for 10 minutes then move them to a cooling rack.
10. While the biscuits are cooling, it's time to clean up the kitchen.
11. When biscuits are cool, store them in a container so they stay fresh.

Cooking reflection

- How many stars do you give your biscuits (out of 5): ☆☆☆☆☆
- What was the trickiest bit of the recipe?
- Would you do anything differently next time?



Secret Code Breaking Puzzle

PASSPORT
Earn 30 minutes
in your passport!

A different symbol stands for each letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank space to solve the coded message!

♣	◇	⌘	●	◻	▽	◎	♥	←	✧	⚙	⊛	+
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

★	⊗	◐	▲	◼	❄	△	◉	▼	⋈	◆	⊠	
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

⋈	♥	♣	△	♥	♣	◐	◐	◻	★	❄	⋈	♥	◻	★	⋈	←	★	△	◻	◼
W																				R

♣	◼	◼	←	▼	◻	❄	?
							?

♣	◉	△	◉	+	★	⊛	◻	♣	▼	◻	❄	!
				M				V				!

♥	⊗	⋈	●	⊗	◆	⊗	◉	+	◻	★	●	♣	◇	◼	⊗	⚙	◻	★
H											D							

◐	◉	+	◐	⚙	←	★	?
				K			?

⋈	←	△	♥	♣	◐	◉	+	◐	⚙	←	★	◐	♣	△	⌘	♥	!
																	!

⋈	♥	♣	△	←	❄	△	♥	◻	◇	◻	❄	△	⌘	⊛	⊗	△	♥	←	★	◎
			T										C							

△	⊗	⋈	◻	♣	◼	←	★	♣	◉	△	◉	+	★	?
								A						?

♣	♥	♣	◼	-	▼	◻	❄	△	!
	H			-					!





PASSPORT

Earn 30 minutes
in your passport!



Autumn Word Search

a	b	s	h	e	r	a	i	n	s	k	w
u	n	e	a	q	r	s	t	u	c	w	e
t	z	e	r	c	t	r	e	e	a	i	b
u	l	d	v	o	p	q	r	s	r	u	v
m	x	s	e	a	l	e	a	v	e	s	h
n	w	n	s	m	s	c	e	c	c	v	r
u	a	d	t	y	z	a	b	c	r	e	f
g	t	y	j	w	i	n	d	y	o	q	r
s	t	r	a	c	t	o	r	a	w	c	c
e	l	p	l	a	n	t	l	m	n	o	r
q	e	s	t	s	e	a	s	o	n	a	o
f	r	o	s	t	h	r	a	k	e	m	w



autumn

leaves

wattle

season

crow

plant

web

seeds

frost

rake

windy

tractor

harvest

rain

scarecrow

tree



PASSPORT

Earn 30 minutes
in your passport!



Autumn I Spy With My Little Eye

How many of each Autumn item can you find on the next page? Write your answers in the boxes.

strawberry



rain



tractor



peas in pod



onion



twig



acorn



squirrel



blueberries



pine cone



pea seeds



apple



pumpkin



conker



coat



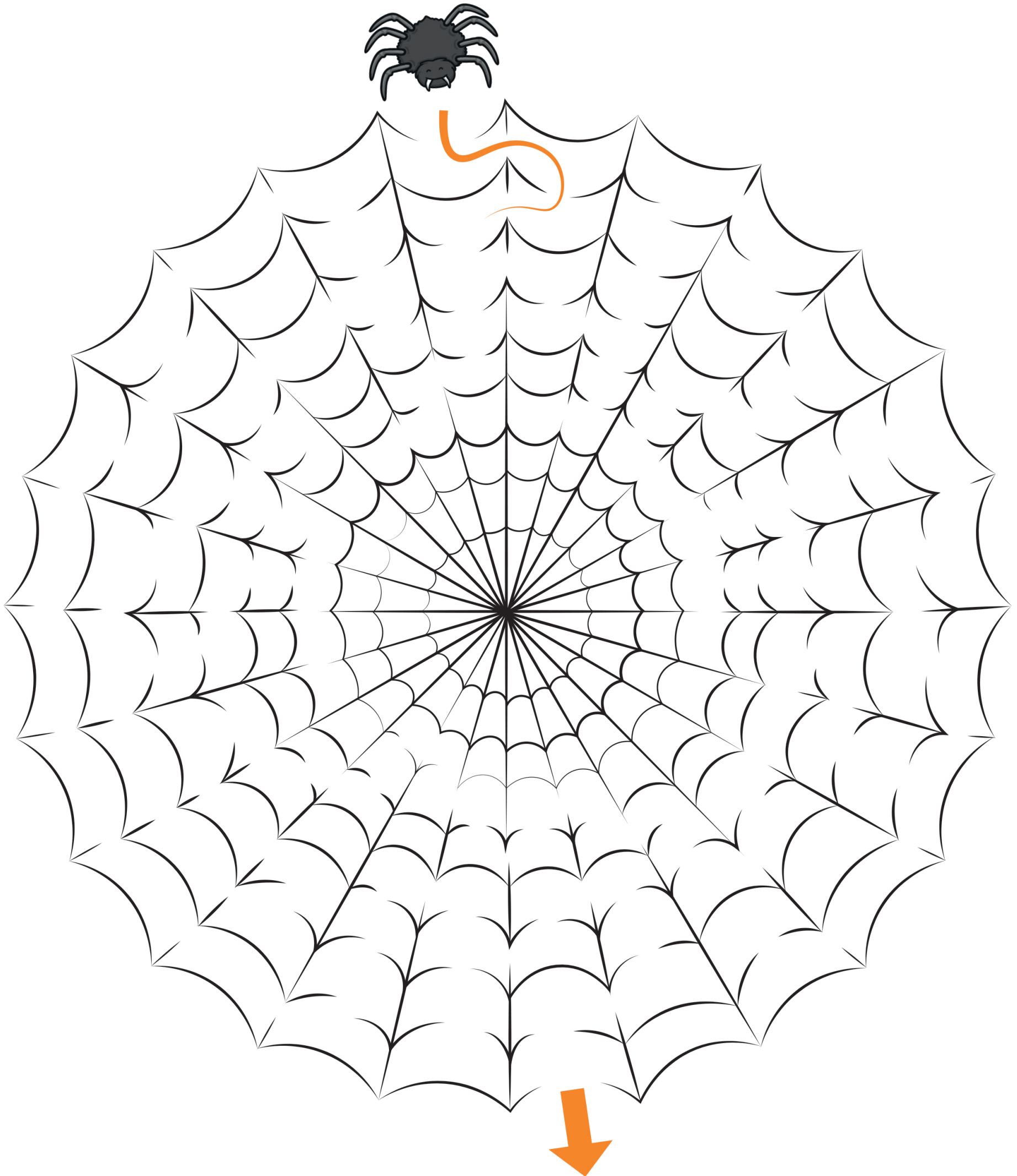
leaves



Halloween Spider Maze

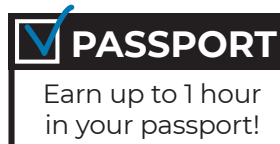
 **PASSPORT**
Earn 30 minutes
in your passport!

Help the spider through the web!





Autumn leaf rubbing



Make your own colourful autumn leaves!

You'll need:

White paper

Coloured crayons (remove the paper around the crayon)

Autumn leaves from your garden or local park

What to do:

1. Gather your materials on a flat surface.
2. Lay the leaves flat on the table, making sure the side with the veins faces up.
3. Place a sheet of paper on top of the leaf.
4. Lay the crayon flat on the paper and colour over the top of the leaf. The veins and ridges of the leaf will show up on your colouring.
5. Make a variety of leaf rubbings with different sized and shaped leaves.

Questions to ask

Look at the veins on the leaves.
What do you think they do?

What's happening

When you use a crayon to rub over the leaves, you get an imprint of the leaf. Your imprint shows the shape of the leaf and all the veins in the leaf. Look at the veins on the leaves. The veins carry water to the very tips of the leaves. Look at the veins on your wrist; they are just like the veins on the leaves. Your veins and arteries carry blood all around your body.



Discover more

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.

Did you know?

- The leaves of some trees don't change colour in autumn; these are called evergreen trees. Trees that do change the colour of their leaves in autumn are called deciduous.
- Little creatures like worms, millipedes and snails are called composters. They eat fallen autumn leaves and compost them. The nutritious compost helps feed the trees during the winter.



Nature's colours

PASSPORT

Earn up to 1 hour
in your passport!

Find out about the pigments that give each plant its unique colours.

You'll need:

Leaves or petals from your garden

Small cups

Bigger trays or containers to put the cups into

Small jug

Scissors

Paper

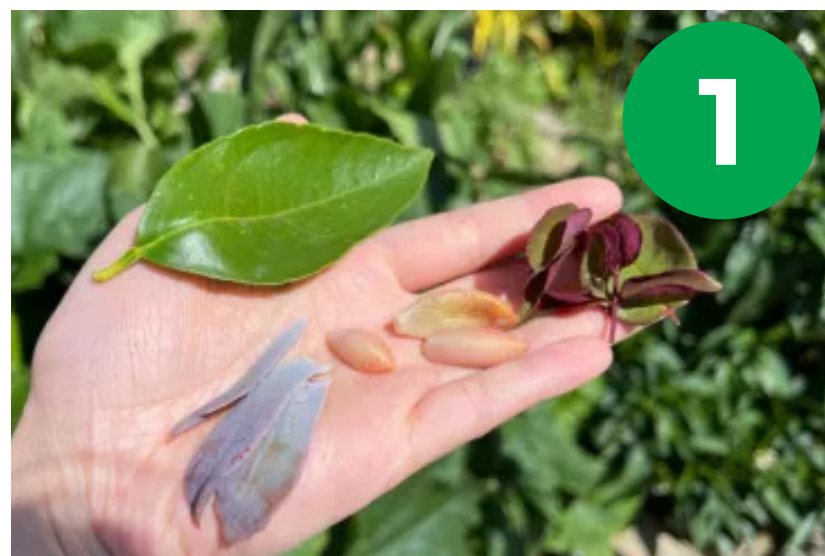
Rubbing alcohol

TIP!

If a leaf is hard to cut up, try a different type of leaf first

What to do:

1. Collect different types of leaves. Don't pick spikey or tough leaves – you need to cut them up in the next step. You can also use flower petals.
2. Cut up each type of leaf into small pieces and then put each type of leaf into its own cup. If a leaf is hard to cut up, try a different type of leaf – you don't want to accidentally hurt yourself!
3. Pour some rubbing alcohol into the cups, using just enough to cover the leaves.
4. Place the cups onto trays.
5. Use a small jug to pour hot (not boiling) water into the trays to warm the cups up.
6. Cut up strips of paper about 2cm wide and long enough to reach the bottom of your cups, and place one strip of paper into each cup.
7. When everything is set up, wash your hands, then leave the cups and paper strips overnight.
8. Take out the paper strips and lay them on a clean surface. What do you see?



1



3



6



8



Nature's colours

What's happening

Plants come in all kinds of colours. From flowers to fruit, there are heaps of colourful plant parts to look at. Added to this, plants use their green leaves to turn sunlight into energy. It shouldn't come as a surprise that plants are packed with colourful chemicals that we call pigments.

By cutting the plant leaves and soaking them in rubbing alcohol, we can pull these pigments out of leaves. Adding hot water around the mixture speeds up the process.

When we put paper into this leafy liquid, it gets sucked up. Colourful pigments get pulled along for the ride, but they stop at different spots. The most easily dissolved chemicals make it further up than the less dissolvable ones.

TIP!

This activity involves hot water and collecting leaves – ask an adult to help.

What chemical is that?

So, what chemicals can you spot in your strips? Here are a few you might know about.

All plants use chlorophyll to turn sunlight into food. There are two main types of chlorophyll that can be found in green leaves. Chlorophyll a is a dark green colour, while Chlorophyll b is yellowish green. Chlorophylls are hard to dissolve and will not travel far up the paper.

Carotenoids make plants look red, orange, or yellow to us. For example, beta-carotene (a type of carotenoid) gives carrots and sweet potatoes their orange looks!

Flavonoids are the plant pigments that make red, blue, yellow, and purple. The most common flavonoid is anthocyanin, which makes up the red that we see in many roses, apples, and autumn leaves.

Another group of pigments called the betalains also give some plants red and yellow colours.

Carotenoids, flavonoids and betalains are easier to dissolve than chlorophylls and will travel further on the paper strip



Turning of the fagus



Learning Destination: Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania

Fagus is Tasmania's only native winter deciduous tree. Its official name is *Nothofagus gunnii*.

The annual 'turning of the fagus' in mid-autumn produces a riot of colour in Tasmania's high country. The crinkle-cut leaves turn from gold to red and orange.

The colours reach a peak around ANZAC Day (April 25).

Big displays of fagus can be seen at Mount Field and Cradle Mountain national parks.

How to spot fagus

Fagus is a small, bushy tree that grows to around two metres high. It has dark green, ridged leaves. It often has lots of ground-level branches that has earned it the name 'tanglefoot' among bushwalkers!

Fagus grows in mountain areas above 800 metres where annual rainfall is high. So, it is suited to the cool temperate forests of the Tasmanian highlands.

An autumn spectacle

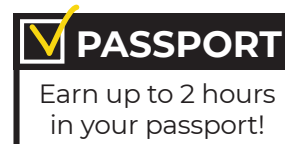
Deciduous trees lose their leaves in autumn as the daylight hours get shorter and the temperatures are colder. Less sunlight means the plants can't make energy from the sun (photosynthesis). So, the trees drop their leaves and do not grow over winter, they 'hibernate' until the sun returns in spring. In Australia, other mountain areas (alpine) trees have made different adaptations to survive winter, e.g. growing smaller, or oil-rich leaves.

Fagus comes from ancient plants that first lived in Gondwana, around 100 million years ago.

Discover more here: parks.tas.gov.au/discovery-and-learning/plants/fagus



Autumn leaves – South



Learning Destination: Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens is Australia's premier cool climate garden. It has unique collections including Australia's only Subantarctic Plant House. With 14 hectares of living collections, there are lots of nooks and crannies to discover.

Visit

Explore the gardens. You can pop into the Visitor Hub located at the main gate, grab a map and ask our staff about what highlights there are to explore.

Passport: Earn up to 2 hours in your passport, stamped on-site.

Tours

Join a friendly guide on a 50-minute walking tour.

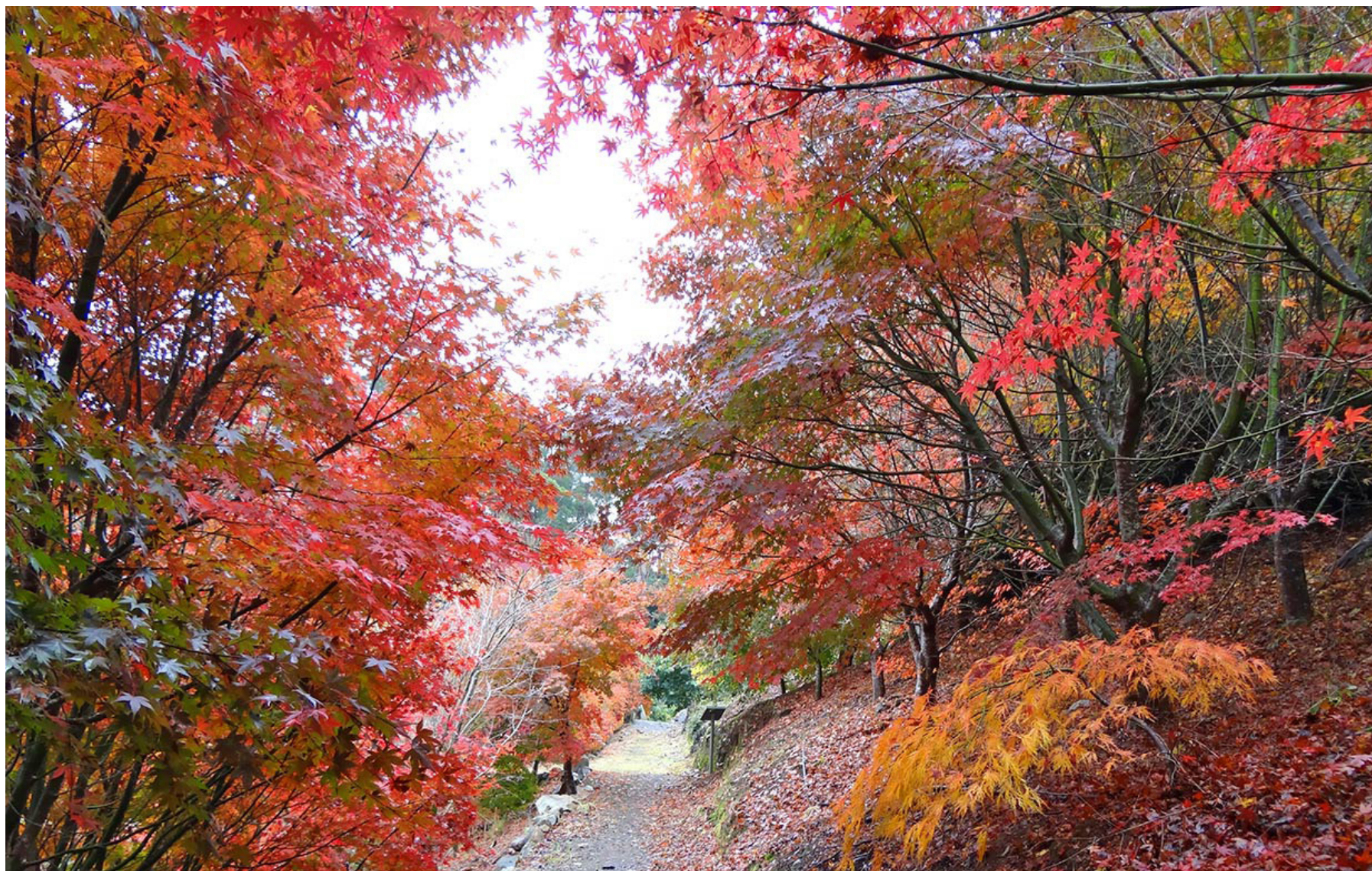
Tours depart from The Hub on Saturdays and Sundays at 10.30am.

- Take in the Garden's highlights
- Hear stories behind its creation
- Learn about the conservation work we do to preserve Tasmania's unique species for the future

Discover more here: gardens.rtbg.tas.gov.au



Autumn leaves – North-West



Learning Destination: Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is an award-winning rhododendron garden. Its unique design makes it one of Australia's major rhododendron gardens. See over 24,000 rhododendrons and other plants.

Visit

Explore the walking tracks, lakes, waterfalls, and bridges. See the resident platypus, echidna, frogs, and birds.

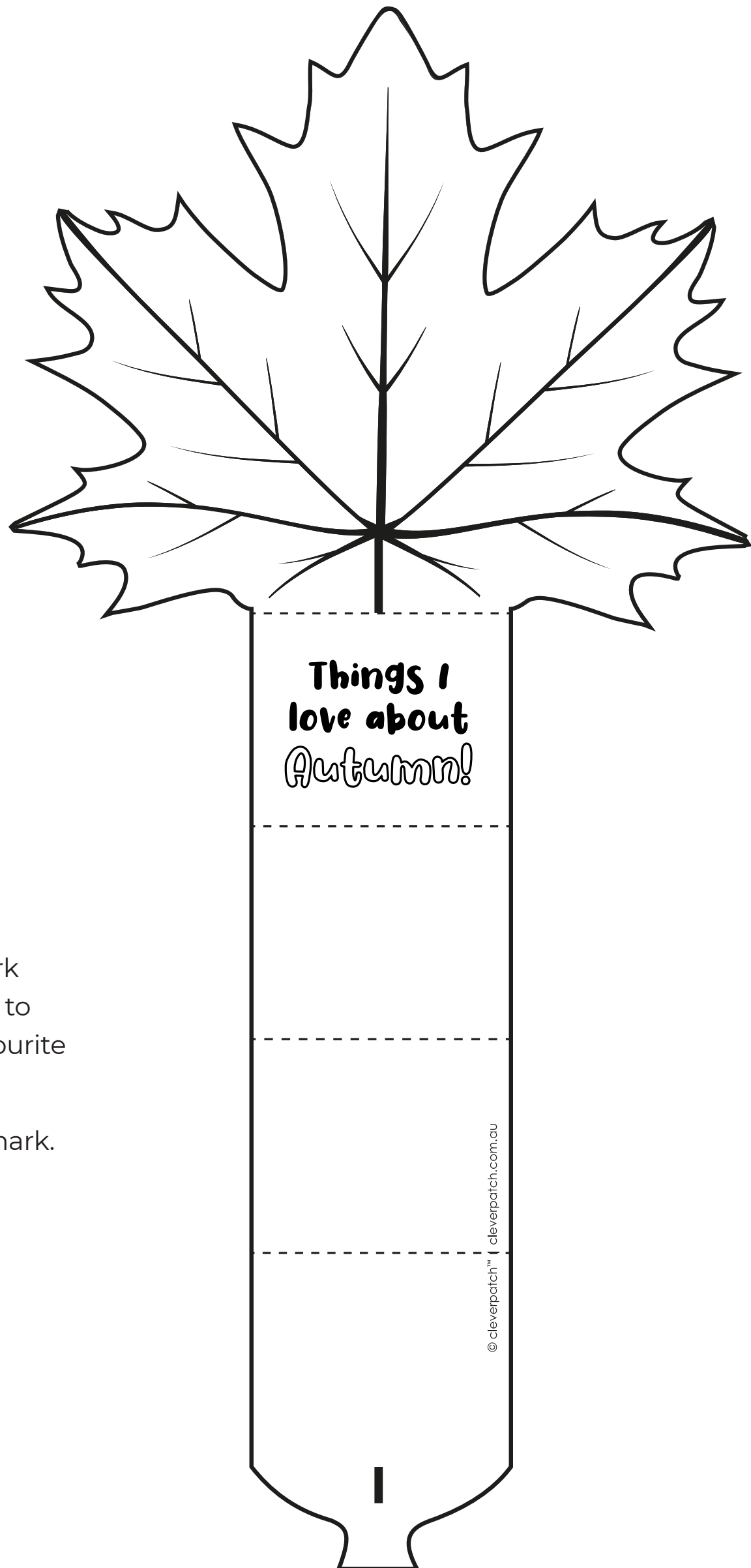
Entry fees: adult \$15, concession \$13, children have free entry. Buggy rides \$7 per seat (please book seats in advance)

Passport: Earn up to 2 hours in your passport, stamped on-site.

Discover more here: emuvalleyrhodo.com



Make a bookmark



Materials:

Pencils or textas

Scissors

Instructions:

1. Colour in the bookmark template. Don't forget to draw or write your favourite things about autumn!
2. Cut around the bookmark.

TIP!

You might want to ask an adult to help you cut the bookmark out