








# Create a tree creature


## Educator Notes

Age				
Early Years	4-7	8-12	12-15	16+
				

Time				
> 10 mins	> 30 mins	> 60 mins	> 2 hours	Long term
				

Season				
All year	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
				

Curriculum Links	
Expressive Arts	
Health & Wellbeing	
Literacy & English	
Mathematics	
Sciences	
Social Studies	
Technologies	

Location		
Indoors	Outdoors	Either
		

Equipment list
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor space with trees</li> <li>• Natural materials (sticks, leaves, pinecones)</li> <li>• Soap and water</li> <li>• Trowel or small spade</li> <li>• Bucket</li> </ul>

Instructions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Before starting, set boundaries with your group so that they know what area to stay in. Make sure you know your area and remind children about any poisonous or prickly plants to avoid!</li> <li>2. Encourage your group to talk about their ideas. Children can work on their own or in pairs/small groups. You could add a little competition and do a vote at the end. Are they going to create a face of someone they know or imagine one? Are they going to make an animal face instead? What sort of natural materials will they need to create it?</li> <li>3. Head off to gather the natural materials. Remind your group to try take things on the woodland floor to avoid picking from living plants.</li> <li>4. It's time for the mud! Using a trowel, dig a hole (between 5 to 20cm deep). Dig out the soil and fill the bucket. If the soil is dry, slowly add water until the mud is sticky and malleable. You can test the mud on a nearby tree – if the mud sticks, it's good to go!</li> <li>5. Everyone should find a suitable tree for their muddy masterpiece. They can start taking the mud (a good few handfuls should do) and sticking it to the bark of the tree and mould it into the shape they want. Press down the edges of the mud, so that it holds firmly onto the tree.</li> <li>6. Using the collected natural materials, it's time to decorate the faces - sticks can become whiskers, pinecones can become eyes! Hopefully lots of weird and wonderful muddy creatures emerge...</li> </ol>