



STEM and Investigation

- **Tree Identification:** Would you be able to identify a willow tree? Use these [Matching Cards](#) to identify the trees in your local environment. Can you match the leaves to the right tree?
- **Survival Shelter:** Imagine you are lost in the wilderness and need to build a shelter to protect you from a gathering storm. Use tarpaulins and rope or sticks and branches to create a shelter. Can you make it waterproof to weather the storm? Test your shelter with a watering can.
- **Perfumed Potion:** Many herbs and flowers have scents that attract the insects that help to pollinate them. Conduct a scent search of your area. Crush herbs and flowers to investigate smells and mix them together to create a 'perfume'. You could create a list of ingredients for a potion that would heal a broken heart, stop a storm or cure a headache.

Maths

- **Journey Map:** Use a journey stick to record a walk in a 'wilderness' near you. Record your walk by collecting fallen treasure and attaching it to a stick. Alternatively, you could include photographs to create a picture map of the walk. Back in class, create a map using coordinates to pinpoint objects or places.
- **Leaf Study:** Tomotada grew a willow tree and recognised it by its long, slender leaves. Can you name a tree by the shape and size of its leaf? Conduct a closer study by working out the area of different leaves in your school grounds. Draw around leaves on squared paper and work out their area. Which tree leaf has the largest area?
 - **Symmetry in Nature:** Tomotada loved nature. Take a camera or tablet outside and explore symmetry in the environment around you. Photograph examples of leaves, body shapes, creatures and man-made structures. Back in class, you could categorise the symmetry you find.

English

- **Secret Scroll:** We never found out what message Tomotada needed to deliver. Use sticks and mud or charcoal from the fire as a writing tool and write your own message on a scroll. What secret mission will you invent? Try hiding an object outside and writing clues for a friend to find it.
- **Tree Planting Campaign:** The Green Willow story has links with deforestation. Start a letter-writing campaign to have more trees planted in your area. Persuade people by explaining the need for and uses of trees.
- **Haiku:** Write a traditional Japanese poem based on your experiences outside. You may wish to use this [Haiku Teaching Pack](#) to guide you.

Take it Outside: Summer

Use this topic map to plan for outdoor learning activities, linked to the Japanese Folktale, 'Green Willow'.

Creative

- **Make a Bow and Arrow:** Willow branches are flexible, making them a great material to make a bow and arrow from. Work out how to construct one of Tomotada's Samurai weapons. Personalise the weapon with natural objects you find on the ground.
- **Mystical Music:** In the story, Tomotada heard music in the wind. Make instruments or wind chimes from the objects you find outside. This simple [Rainbow Wind Chimes Outdoor Activity](#) might inspire you.
- **Fairy Breath Bracelets:** Shinto is an ancient Japanese religion that believes everything has a spirit power. Make an 'offering' or good luck charm by twisting coloured wool together and hanging them from the branches of a tree. You could add leaves and other fallen treasures or even shells and beads to decorate.

Social

- **Hug a Tree:** Get up close and personal with a tree. Allow a trusted friend to blindfold you and guide you towards a tree. Feel its bark - how does it feel? Rough? Smooth? Allow yourself to be guided back to the start, then remove your blindfold and see if you can find your tree, just by using your sense of touch.
- **Meaningful Meditation:** Tomotada loved the world around him. Try some yoga outdoors, enjoy the fresh air, learn to relax and improve your focus! Use this [Self Esteem Yoga Poses Activity](#) for inspiration.

