

# LITERACY learning springboards

Pappus

## Myths and legends

### Use *Pappus* Elder ID sheet and further research

**Aim:** Research myths and legends associated with the Elder Tree and use these ideas to develop a narrative.

#### Activity

- Print copies or refer pupils to the *Pappus* Elder ID sheet and Playful Springboards online.
- Elder was once regarded as a most magically powerful plant and was said to have the power to charm away warts and vermin and be the home of 'faeries'. It was also believed that if you burned elder wood you might see the devil, but if you plant it near your house it might keep the devil away.
- There are more stories about elders at the Trees for Life website.
- Inspired by their research, pupils should write a short story, newspaper report, magic potion recipe or poem exploring the magical properties of elder - or create a piece of writing to meet a specific curriculum outcome for language development.

#### Success Criteria

- ✓ I can retell a myth and/or legend related to the Elder tree
- ✓ I can use the features of a given text in my writing

#### Resources:

- Elder trees in school grounds or in the locality.
- *Pappus* Elder ID sheet
- *Pappus* Playful Springboards: Elder



Trees for life



## Inspiration for stories

### Use *Pappus* Ivy ID sheet and further research

**Aim:** Pupils investigate local ivy plants, and research superstition, magic and ancient herbalists uses.

- Ivy was used as a wart and verruca charmer.
- The larger trunks of ivy, when stripped back to their bare wood, have the look of ivory. They used to be used for pastry rolling pins because the pastry would not stick to it like other woods.
- It was also used in flower arranging especially Christmas decorations.
- In the 1940's and earlier, the darkest green leaves were sometimes used at home to clean or restore the colour of clothing.
- In ancient Greece, Hippocrates used Ivy to reduce swelling and as an anaesthetic. Even today, some herbalists use it to treat respiratory conditions, such as asthma, bronchitis, inflammation and arthritis.
- **NB: Do not use herbs medicinally to treat any conditions, without professional medical direction.**



#### Activity:

Write a short story, based in the past or an historical report, to meet a specific literacy learning outcome.

#### Success criteria:

- ✓ I can use my research skills to improve my knowledge of the ivy plant
- ✓ I can use the features of a given text in my writing

#### Resources:

- Ivy stems, sourced from the school grounds or local area.
- *Pappus* Ivy ID sheet
- Online research

