



Make a memory tree

A new year brings the chance to enjoy new experiences, explore new places and make new memories. Instead of simply snapping selfies on a phone or camera, why not create something special? This clever memory tree is made from 12 twigs, leaf-shaped labels and a cardboard tube for the trunk.

Personalise your tree by painting and decorating it in different colours and patterns or just leave it natural. As each month passes, attach mementos such as a birthday card, a cinema or train ticket, a recipe, a wrapper, a wristband or simply a feather or shell you collected on a walk.

By the end of 2023, you will have a tree decorated in memories of the moments that made you smile.

What you need

- 12 dry twigs
- A ruler
- A cardboard tube
- Scissors
- Old newspaper
- PVA glue
- A glue brush
- Paints
- Paintbrushes
- Coloured card
- Pen

TWIG TIP

- Don't take healthy twigs from trees. Collect fallen twigs in gardens, parks or woods.
- Use pipe cleaners as branches if you don't want to use real tree twigs.
- You can draw a memory tree instead of making one. On a large piece of paper, draw a tree with 12 branches then stick on your mementos each month.

A memory tree is a fun way to save memories.

TREE-MENDOUS!

The tallest tree in the world is called Hyperion. The 116-metre tree was discovered in 2006 in California, US.



1 Hunt for twigs

Collect 12 twigs that are about the same length (25 centimetres is best, so it's a good idea to take a ruler with you). Make sure they are not too flimsy or too thick (4-5 millimetres thick is perfect). Remove any loose bark and leave to dry. Take the cardboard tube and cut four or five thin slots at the top.



2 Fix your branches

Put eight twigs through the slots or standing upright in the cardboard tube. Scrunch up some old newspaper and place it in the bottom of the tube. This will hold the twigs in place. Make four small holes in the side of tube and push the remaining four twigs through the sides.



3 Secure the shape

Brush glue over the tube then cover with pieces of newspaper (tissue paper works too). Add more glue and paper if necessary to hold the branches in place. Leave to dry.



4 Decorate your tree

Paint the branches white first, leave to dry, then paint it in bright colours. Wait to dry. Draw 12 leaf shapes on card. Write the names of the months onto the leaves, cut them out and glue them onto the branches. Finally, make some memories.



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SCAN ME