

# Learning in the Leaves

## Identification- Horse Chestnut



### Distinguishing Features

- Leaves: the palmate leaves comprise 5-7 pointed, toothed leaflets spreading from a central stem.
- Flowers: appearing in May - individual flowers have 4-5 fringed petals, which are white with a pink flush at the base.
- Fruits: once pollinated by insects, each flower develops into a glossy red-brown conker inside a spiky green husk, which falls in autumn.

### Interesting Facts

There is little folklore associated with the tree - probably due to it being an introduced species. However, games of conkers have different rules in different parts of the country, which have their own jargon and often require the repeating of rhymes or rituals to decide who goes first.

The most famous use of horse chestnut is in the game of conkers. The first record of the game is from the Isle of Wight in 1848.

[information collated from the Woodland Trust Website: [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)]