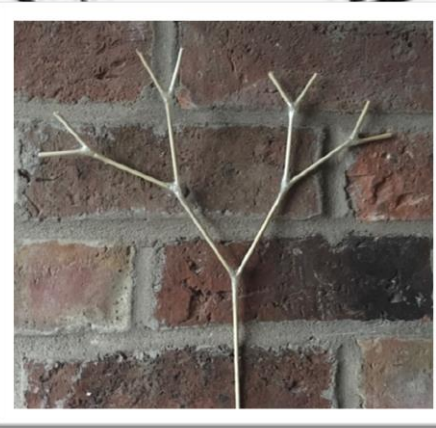# Make a Fractal Tree

Have you ever looked at a tree, really looked?

If you start at the trunk and move upwards, you will see that it separates into several branches. If you follow one of the branches you will see that it too separates in a way that is similar…in fact, each branch itself is a smaller tree shape. A tree is like **a fractal** – a never ending pattern of self-similar shapes that repeats itself.

Why not try making your own fractal tree!

1. Draw or make a trunk

2. At the end of the trunk, draw or make two branches

3. Repeat at the end of each branch

4. Continue until you are happy with the size of your tree

You could try using sticks, modelling clay or paper straws!

Why is this maths?

You'll be exploring never-ending patterns that are created by repeating a simple process over and over. Nature is full of fractals, for example: trees, seashells and rivers. Can you think of any more?

Why is this useful?

Fractals help us study scientific concepts such as patterns in freezing water (snowflakes) and the way bacteria grow.

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