A Tree For All Seasons is great fun to make. You can adapt the project to any scale, even a loo roll will work as a miniature forest! Our tree has two ‘faces’ so you can turn it around. You could even collage the trees with leaves, fruits and blossoms to celebrate the seasons and different varieties of tree. We hung buttons from our tree too, so be adventurous and make a recycled forest for your school! But don’t forget to recycle it when you have finished.

Materials:
A cardboard box (for the stand)
A cardboard tube (for the trunk)
Cardboard (or any scrap material that you could cut a triangle from)
Primer
Modroc* or strong tape and gum strip
PVA glue
Lots of bright patterns and colours, from wall paper scraps, magazines, fabric, buttons, stickers - anything you can cut, stick and hang in other words
A couple of bricks or heavy stones

Tools:
Scissors
Ruler
Paint Brush
Craft Knife

* Plaster bandage: make wet, take off excess water and smooth into place, it dries hard and makes a lovely surface for painting (in the old days broken limbs were ‘cast’ with plaster bandage - do not try this at home)
Method:
1. To make the stand. Draw around your tube to create a circle on the lid of your box. Cut a hole.

2. To make the top of the tree. Draw a triangle on a large sheet of strong card and cut it out.
3. Now you have your three basic elements, the stand, the tube and the triangle.

4. To connect the triangle to the ‘trunk’ mark ‘cut lines’ the width of the tube (diameter) half way along the bottom edge of your triangle. Take into account the thickness of the tube cardboard.

5. Make cuts.

6. Insert your triangle into your tube. Leave the ‘tongue’ of cardboard to pop into the tube.

   Handy hint: use the ‘stand’ weighted with two bricks, to hold your tree upright while you work on it.

7. Pad out the neck of the tube with scraps of tissue and rags to keep everything steady - you will lose the padding down the tube if you push too hard.

8. Then use good tape like gum strip to secure the tube to the triangle, seal the edges of the cardboard and create a tidy finish. Handy hint: cut strips of gum strip in a dry area. Drops of water on the roll will fuse the tape so it is unusable.
9. Here is our lovely neat treetop! Please give it time to dry hard if you used gum strip.

10. We wanted to make the box look elegant we drew around it onto some cloth, with old fashioned chalk. Then cut it out. Don’t forget the hole for the trunk!

11. This elegant coverlet can have the corners fastened with velcro. You can embroider and decorate this coverlet.

12. Here is the box with two bricks. Handy hint: we clamped the ‘trunk’ between the bricks to provide extra stability.

14. Use the Modroc to make a strong and smooth junction between the triangle and the tube. Let this dry so it's rock hard. **Handy hint:** Pop the Modroc into water, skim off the excess and smooth into place. Don’t rush, let all this dry overnight.

15. Now prime your construction to create a uniform surface ready for painting and sticking.

**Handy hint:** Priming with a water based primer and patiently letting it dry over night will make all the difference.

16. Now for the fun. Let your imagination run wild, paint, stick and adorn your tree. We made ours different on each side so we could have a change.

17. Cut strips of paper to wrap around the trunk. This looks good with paint too.
18. Wonderful and weird ideas for decorating trees are encouraged.

19. Handy hint and safety note. If you want to make your tree of sturdy stuff, you can get the really heavy duty tubes from carpet stores. Use DT lessons to create the basic tree. If you use reclaimed wood you will need to make the structure much stronger. Make sure the triangle corners are not at eye level, you can round off the corners and even add soft material to prevent injury.

20. This project will take from 1 to 4 hours depending on scale and materials used.