

Just Leaf It

Subject: Natural Sciences- Plants, Art, and Math

Grade Level: 3rd-5th Grade

Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- 1) Compare and contrast leaves by color, shape, texture, and size
- 2) Compare and contrast leaf margins, bases, and tips
- 3) Measure length and width of leaves in inches
- 4) Identify what goes into and what comes out of the process of photosynthesis
- 5) Create a leaf rubbing artwork

Materials:

	Different leaves from around your neighborhood, yard, a park, or from planters in your house
	Bag
	Crayons with the paper wrapper peeled off
	Paper
	Ruler
П	Leaf Identification Guide below

Vocabulary:

Leaf Margins- the edges of a leaf

Leaf Bases- the bottom of a leaf, where it meets the stem

Leaf Tips- the part of the leaf that comes to a point

Leaf Veins- the lines on the underside of a leaf that carry food and water

Photosynthesis- the process plants and algae use to make food using sunlight

Leaf Length- from the base to the tip

Leaf Width- the longest part across the leaf

Activity

Directions:

- 1. Go for a walk around your yard, neighborhood, park, or home, collecting leaves in a bag. Gather one leaf from each plant that you see.
- 2. At home, lay your leaves out on a table and compare and contrast them by texture, shape, color, and size. Make observations about the leaves, such as...
 - a. This leaf is smooth
 - b. This leaf looks heart-shaped
 - c. This leaf is a darker green than that leaf
 - d. This leaf is smaller than that leaf

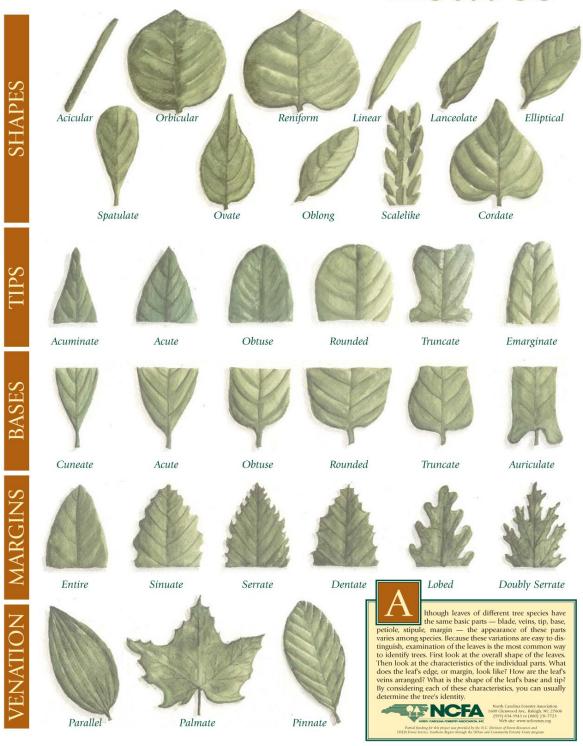


- 3. Compare and contrast **leaf margins**, **bases**, **and tips**, using the leaf identification guide from the North Carolina Forestry Association below.
- 4. Turn the leaves over and look at the lines on them. These are the **leaf veins** that carry water and nutrients/food. The veins help with **photosynthesis**, the process of making food using sunlight. Discuss photosynthesis.

- 5. Place a leaf in front of you with the veins facing up.
- 6. Place a piece of paper over the leaf.
- 7. Hold your paper down over the leaf, and using a crayon on its side, rub over the leaf.
- 8. Repeat steps 5-7 with other leaves to create a leaf art piece.
- 9. Measure the length and width of the leaves on your paper and write down/label the measurements on your paper. Compare and contrast the leaves using length and width.



tree identification: Leaves



Credit to North Carolina Forestry Association