Herts and
MiddlesexWildlife
Watch

Leaves Galore!

Background information

There are many different tree species in the UK which can be identified using their leaves, bark, buds, fruits and shape. The accompanying leaf identification sheet can be used as a resource to help identify some of our native trees and can also be used to play a variety of games – see suggestions overleaf.

Activity objectives

This resource aims to teach children that leaves come in lots of different shapes and sizes and how they can be used to identify different tree species. It also aims to get children thinking about classifying species by their characteristics.

What you will need

1. A space in which to play – possibly a wood depending on the game!
2. Copies of the accompanying leaf identification sheet
3. A supply of leaves

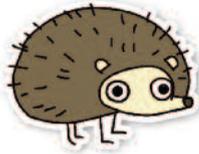


Now turn over...



and play the games!





Leaves Galore!

Six Games - how to play

1. Leaf Detectives. Visit a woodland and ask the children to collect several dead leaves that look different. Get them to match their leaves to the pictures on the worksheet and work out which species of tree they belong to.

2. Snap! Print off several copies of the sheets, cut out the pictures and use them to play snap.

3. 3. Mix and Match! Print off the sheets and cut them up. Mix them up and get the children to match the species names and details to the correct leaf.

4. Feature Finder. Feature Finder. Get the children to classify the leaves into different groups by their features. How many different ways can they be grouped?



5. Making Keys. Use the pictures alone and 4 above to prompt questions for making an identification key for leaves. ???

6. Bingo! Use the leaf pictures to make bingo cards. Print a variety of selections of 9 of the leaf pictures or the common names on 3x3 grids. Provide groups with leaves for 9 of the trees. Students can mark their grids when the matching leaf is held up. ???

Follow up

1. Discuss why leaves are important to the tree.
2. Discuss why some trees are evergreen and some trees are deciduous.
3. 3. Discuss what adaptations the leaves of evergreen trees show.
4. 4. Research why deciduous trees lose their leaves in the autumn.

Information for Teachers

National Curriculum Links

Y1 POS Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees.

Y2 POS Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats.

Y4 POS Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways. Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.

Y6 POS Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals.