

Leaf ID

Number of participants: One or more

Age group: 7 years and up

Equipment needed: Notebooks and pencils

Indoor Outdoor



This activity works with any number of kids. Although it is best suited for the outdoors, there's an indoor variation as well (see below). It can be an independent (single child), collaborative (multiple kids), or competitive activity, as noted below.

The participants explore an outdoor area and collect different fallen leaves, placing each one on its own separate page within their notebook. They write down what kind of tree they think each leaf came from. With a group of participants, once the exploring is complete, the group gathers back together to compare notes about their guesses and everyone guesses what they believe each other's leaves are. The other kid's guesses are added below their own guesses.

Using *non-electronic* resources (no phones or computers) from school, home, or a library, children, research their finds, verifying whether their guesses (and the other kid's guesses) were correct or not. When the research is finished, participants write brief reports about the leaves they found, which are shared if there is a group.



VARIANTS

Indoor Version: A teacher or parent places leaves, or photos or drawings of various leaves, throughout an indoor area. In locations with very limited area, a teacher/parent can simply show leaves, photos, or drawings to a child, or group of kids. The rest of the activity is conducted the same as above.

Competitive Version: Each child's guesses about what tree a leaf belongs to is recorded and, after the research, the child with the most correct guesses is the winner.

Other Objects Version: Different natural objects, like rocks, weeds, flowers, etc. can be substituted in place of tree leaves.

