

Activities about tree leaves diversity for elementary schools

Activity 1: Leaf sampling and identification of target tree species

Outdoor, 2 hours

Preparation:

- For selected tree species (for example 6 species), install labels with species names on standing trees (for example 20 trees).
- Prepare an herbarium of the same selected tree species. Attribute an identification number to each specimen.

Activity:

Make groups among children (3 children per group). Each group collects a certain number (for example 5) of fallen leaves from each target tree species. They identify the collected leaves by comparing them with dry leaves from the herbarium and with fresh leaves hanging on the labelled trees. Points are attributed for correct identification using the herbarium (1 point for correct identification number) and using labelled trees (1 point for correct species name) for each species. Certificates “expert in leaf diversity” can be given to the winners.





Activity 2: Drawing colorful leaf patterns

Indoor or outdoor, 1 hour

Children collect fresh leaves from target tree species. Using oily colored pens, they print the leaf patterns on A4 paper (see [here](#) for more detailed description). A different color can be selected for each species. The drawings can be used simply for decoration or for scientific posters when adding the species name and ecological/economical characteristics (family, origin, use by humans, etc.).



Activity 2: Leaf sorting

Indoor or outdoor, 1 hour

Preparation: Boxes containing a mixture of dry leaves from the target tree species.

Activity: The children pick sort the leaves from each species and identify them with the help of the herbarium.