# Leaf Study

## for Garden Clubs



**Suggestion: Wait for a beautiful fall or early winter day.**

## Materials

- Collected Leaf
- Glue, Ruler, Crayons
- Handouts

## Objectives

- I can use measurement tools to determine the length and width of my chosen leaf.
- I can use adjectives to describe my leaf's appearance.
- I can identify and label the parts of a leaf.

## Anticipatory Set

Ask students to share what they know about fall leaves. What are some words that can describe them? Their color? Their size? Their shape?

Encourage them to share why there may be differences between leaves of the same tree and of different trees.

# Introduction

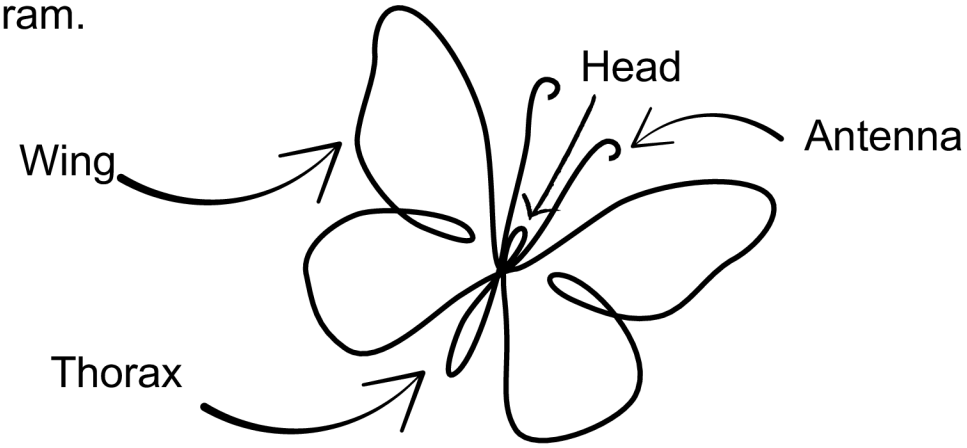
Explain to students that today we will be completing a leaf study on any leaf of the student's choosing. Explain that this study will include noting the leaf's color and measuring its height and width. Students should be encouraged to choose leaves with distinct characteristics as this will help with the "Closure" portion of the lesson.

Tell your students that they will also be creating a diagram of their leaf. They will illustrate their leaf and use a passage to label its parts.

**Note**: If this is your class's first time using labels and a diagram, it may be helpful to give them examples that they are familiar with to practice.

Idea:

- Draw a butterfly and explain to your students that another word for this drawing is "diagram".
- Next, have students identify the different items in the picture. Explain to students that these words become "labels" when we use arrows and lines to add them to our diagram.




# Guided Practice

Take students outside to collect a leaf that they will use to complete their "Leaf Study."

Upon returning to the classroom, distribute rulers and crayons so that your students can complete the “Leaf Study” handout.

Distribute the “Parts of a Leaf” passage and read it aloud to your students.

While reading, pause and have students point out the **midrib**, **veins**, **petiole**, and **blade** of their own leaf.

# Independent Practice

Have students illustrate their leaf. Students should use their Leaf Study handout to help with the colors, size, and edges of the leaf. Share with students that they will now label the **midrib**, **veins**, **petiole**, and **blade** of their leaf illustration.

Share with students that they may use their “Parts of a Leaf” passage and its diagrams for assistance.

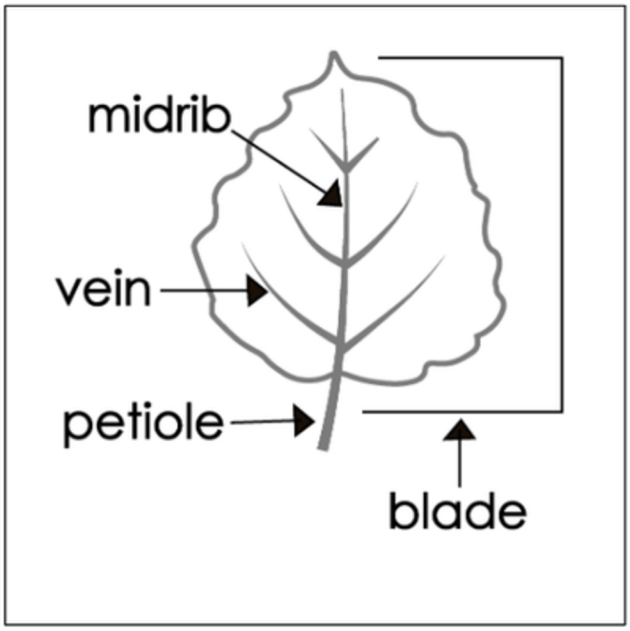
# Closure

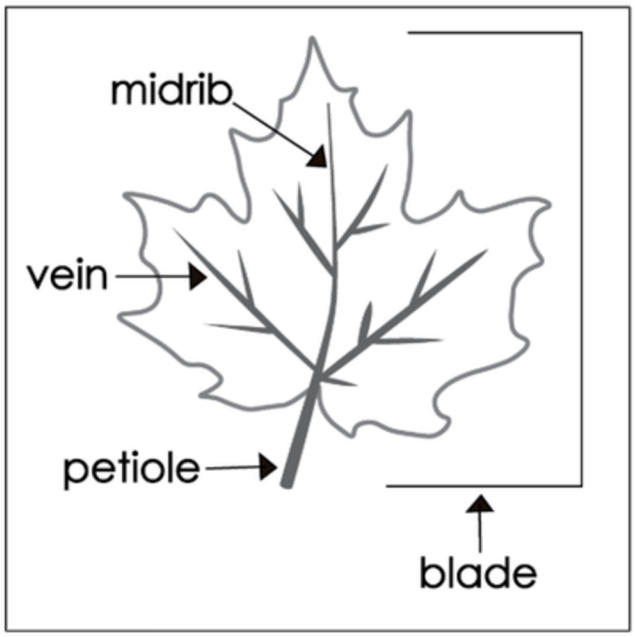
Close out your lesson by having students give you the leaf they collected. Mix the leaves up, and pass them back out on student desks.

Next, have students swap their “Leaf Study” handout with a classmate. Allow the students to walk around the classroom with their partner’s handout. They should look at each leaf and use the descriptions on their partner’s handout to try to indentify their partner’s leaf.

Partners can check with each other for correctness.

# Parts of a Leaf




The leaves on the plants in our school gardens and the leaves on our trees may have different shapes, sizes, and colors, but they all have the same basic parts and do the same important work. Every leaf that we see has a **midrib**, **veins**, **petiole**, and **blade**.

The **midrib** is the long ridge down the center of a leaf. It gives the leaf strength and helps hold it together. The **veins** connect to the midrib and help move water and nutrients throughout the leaf. The **petiole** is the stalk that connects the leaf to a plant's stem or to a tree's branch. The **blade** is the flat part of the leaf that absorbs sunlight. This is where photosynthesis takes place.

During photosynthesis, leaves use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to make food for the plant. This food gives plants the energy they need to grow. The leaves on the plants in our school gardens help make the food that allows them to grow the fruits and vegetables we eat.

The leaves on our trees make food for the trees, too. This food helps trees grow and stay healthy so they can provide us with shade, homes for wildlife, and many other benefits. Leaves may look like they are simply hanging from a plant or tree, but they are actually busy doing important work!

So the next time you see a leaf, take a closer look. It may be big or small, green or another color, smooth or shaped in a unique way, but inside it has the same basic parts working together to help the plant survive.

# _____'s Leaf Study

My leaf is _____

centimeters long

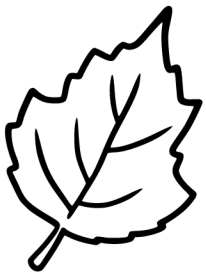
and _____

centimeters wide.

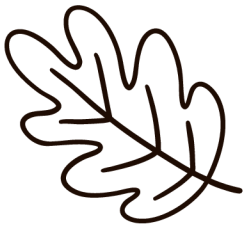
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The edges of my leaf can be described as:

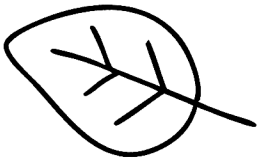
**Pointy**



**Bumpy**



**Smooth**



The colors that can be found on my leaf are:

| |
|---|
| green |
| orange |
| red |
| brown |
| yellow |
| black |

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Other adjectives that describe my leaf are:

_____

_____

_____

_____

# Illustration and Labels



# Thanks for downloading!

Please check out batonrougegreen.com/programs/canopy_kids for more awesome tree related information and lessons.