



LEAF SORT

Leaves come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Take a walk outside and see what you can find.

THE GOAL: Go outside and practice identifying the leaves you find.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An area with trees
- Tree ID field guide (optional)
- Nature field guides (optional)
- Bag to hold items (optional)
- Notebook (optional)

TAKE A WALK!

1. Take a walk on the playground, in your neighborhood, or in your backyard.
2. Pick up leaves you find on the ground, or ask an adult to help you collect some from different trees. Try to find as many different kinds of leaves as you can.
3. Examine the trees and list some of the things you notice. What kind of bark does the tree have? Is it tall or short? Does it have flowers, nuts or seeds? Are there animals living in or on the trees? What sounds do you hear? If you have a notebook, you can write down or draw some of your observations.

Note: When you're walking outside, only take something if there are too many to count. It's OK to collect a few leaves from a tree because a tree has so many leaves. When you pick flowers or pick up other items, make sure you have permission. If you leave natural places the way you found them, then you can always come back and enjoy them.



SORT
YOUR
LEAVES

LEAF SORT CONT.

1. When your walk is finished, take a close look at the leaves you've collected. How are they similar or different?
2. Choose a quality you'd like to sort them by. You can sort them by color, shape, size, texture, type (needles or leafy), edges, or another attribute - the choice is yours!
3. Now try sorting the leaves according to the the shape of their edges, or **margins**:
 - Leaves with a smooth edge have **entire** margins.
 - Leaves with a jagged edge like a saw have **toothed** margins.
 - Leaves whose edge goes in and out have **lobed** margins- like your ear lobe!



ENTIRE



LOBED



TOOTHED





LEAF SORT CONT.

MORE TO EXPLORE

- Sketch a picture of a tree and its leaf.
- Use a field guide to help you identify which tree the leaf is from.
- Collect and sort other interesting nature items, such as rocks and seeds.
- After sorting, press your leaves between layers of paper towels and books. Allow leaves to dry and mount them in your notebook.
Remember not to bother or harass any living creatures - observe them safely and respectfully.
- For an online tree ID guide, visit the Arbor Day Foundation at <https://www.arborday.org/trees/whatTree/>

STANDARDS

This activity aligns with the following Oklahoma Academic Standards:

- PreK Math Standard 1: Algebraic Reasoning: Patterns and Relationships
- KG Math K.A.1.1: Algebraic Reasoning and Algebra

DID YOU KNOW?

Trees help humans by removing pollution from the air. There are over 60,000 different species of trees in the world!



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

A Walk in the Woods: Into the Field Guide by Emily Laber-Warren
Tree: A Peek-Through Picture Book by Britta Teckentrup
Curious George Plants a Tree by Monica Perez
Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert



Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance