

Can a Tree Be Blue?

Negative Painting Template

If you can't get leaves for the Leaf Art activity, you can use this template instead. Cut out this leaf and use double-sided tape to fasten it onto a blank piece of paper. Then paint over the leaf out to the edges of the paper.

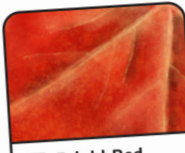
Use the template to show the pattern.

Colors and Shapes

Can you find leaves that match each of these pictures?



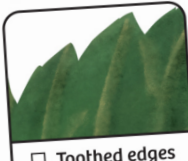
☐ Light green



☐ Bright Red



☐ Orange



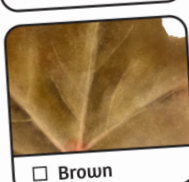
☐ Toothed edges



☐ Yellow



☐ Purple-red



☐ Brown



☐ Holes



☐ A heart



☐ Needles



☐ An oval



☐ Dark green

an early
science series

Can a Tree Be Blue?

by Audrey Sauble

Learn about trees!

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Nature Study Ideas

1) Read *Can a Tree Be Blue?*

Talk about the different kinds of trees. Make a leaf stamp or draw a tree. Have students create their own booklets using the Tree Colors pages.

2) Take a (Nature) Hike

Find a park or green space and look for trees. (If it doesn't work to go outdoors, find a video that will show the students a forest area.) How many colors you can find? What are the main parts of a tree?

Key words: conifer, deciduous, roots, trunk, branches, bark, leaves.

3) Leaf Shapes

Use *Can a Tree Be Blue?* to look at the different shapes of leaves. Then use a leaf identification guide to find the names for these shapes. Go on another nature walk and look for leaf shapes.

Key words: lobe, palmate, serrate and dentate, alternate, opposite.

4) Building a Forest

Have students draw trees, shrubs, flowers, or other plants. Cut out the drawing and pin them to a bulletin board. Arrange them so that the drawings show how the different heights of plants create an upper, middle, and lower canopy.

Key words: tree, shrub, undergrowth, shade, canopy.

5) Bugs in the Forest

Use the forest the students created in the previous activity. Have students to draw an insect on a sticky note. Then ask them to add their insect to the forest. Talk about how the insects interact with each other and the forest. See if you can create a food chain showing these interactions.

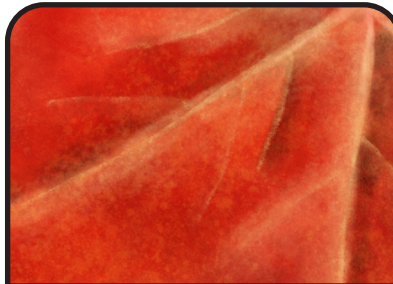
Key words: pollinator, herbivore, predator, shelter, hibernation.

Colors and Shapes

Can you find leaves that match each of these pictures?



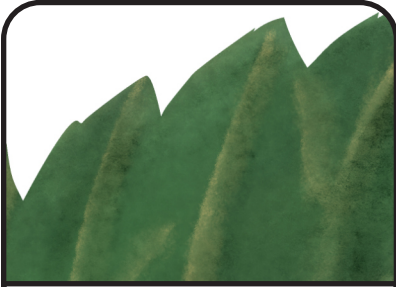
☐ Light green



☐ Bright Red



☐ Orange



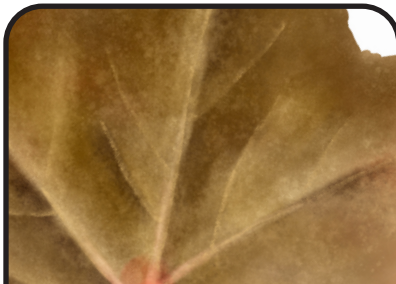
☐ Toothed edges



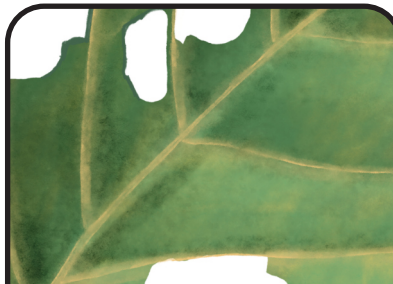
☐ Yellow



☐ Purple-red



☐ Brown



☐ Holes



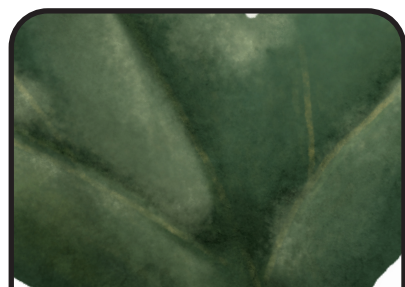
☐ A heart



☐ Needles



☐ An oval



☐ Dark green

B**I****N****G****O**

A green
flower

An old
flower

A round
flower

A thin
flower

A pink
flower

A tiny
flower

A purple
flower

A red
flower

A group
of flowers

Very short
flowers

A flower
with many
colors

A tree with
flowers

*Free
Space*

An orange
flower

A new
flower bud

A bush with
flowers

A yellow
flower

A single
flower

A tall
flower stalk

A cup-
shaped
flower

A blue
flower

A giant
flower

Grass
flowers

A flower
with holes

A white
flower

Leaf Hunt!

Next time you explore outside, try to find these leaves:

- ☐ A tiny leaf
- ☐ A HUGE leaf
- ☐ An oval leaf
- ☐ A circle leaf
- ☐ A heart leaf
- ☐ A hand leaf
- ☐ A toothed edge
- ☐ A smooth edge
- ☐ A long leaf
- ☐ A pine needle
- ☐ A fuzzy leaf
- ☐ A shiny leaf

- ☐ A thin leaf
- ☐ A thick leaf
- ☐ A holey leaf
- ☐ A curly leaf
- ☐ A light green leaf
- ☐ A dark green leaf
- ☐ A yellow leaf
- ☐ A brown leaf
- ☐ An orange leaf
- ☐ A purple leaf
- ☐ A striped leaf
- ☐ A spotted leaf

Leaf Hunt!

- ☐ A tiny leaf
- ☐ A HUGE leaf
- ☐ An oval leaf
- ☐ A circle leaf
- ☐ A heart leaf
- ☐ A toothed leaf
- ☐ A fuzzy leaf
- ☐ A shiny leaf
- ☐ A holey leaf
- ☐ A curly leaf

Leaf Hunt!

- ☐ A tiny leaf
- ☐ A HUGE leaf
- ☐ An oval leaf
- ☐ A circle leaf
- ☐ A heart leaf
- ☐ A toothed leaf
- ☐ A fuzzy leaf
- ☐ A shiny leaf
- ☐ A holey leaf
- ☐ A curly leaf

Branching Out

This tree lost its leaves! Help it out by drawing some new ones. Use markers, crayons, paints, or pencils—or create a collage by gluing scraps of paper onto the branches.





Leaf Art

Supplies

- Double-sided tape or glue dots
- Paint or chalk pastels
- Paper
- Several leaves

Tape the leaf onto a sheet of paper with glue dots or double-sided tape. Make sure the tape or glue does are hidden underneath the leaf.

Paint over the leaf and around its edges. Try not to paint underneath the leaf.

Let the paint to dry, then remove the leaf and the tape.

You will see a white leaf shape underneath. You've created a negative painting!

Negative Painting Template

If you can't get leaves for the Leaf Art activity, you can use this template instead. Cut out this leaf and use double-sided tape to fasten it onto a blank piece of paper. Then paint over the leaf out to the edges of the paper.

When the paint is dry, remove the template to show the pattern.



Leaf Stamps

Supplies:

- A variety of leaves
- Finger paints
- Paper

Paint one side of a leaf.

Carefully turn the leaf over and lay it onto a clean sheet of paper. Press the leaf down for several seconds. Then lift the leaf to reveal the paint pattern underneath.

Make a pattern:

Can you fill a page with different leaves and colors? See how the colors and shapes change as you layer them on top of each other.

Identification cards:

Gather leaves from several different trees. Print each leaf on a separate sheet of paper. After the paint dries, write a label. Add more information about the tree.



Make a Leaf Friend

See what you can create with a handful of leaves!

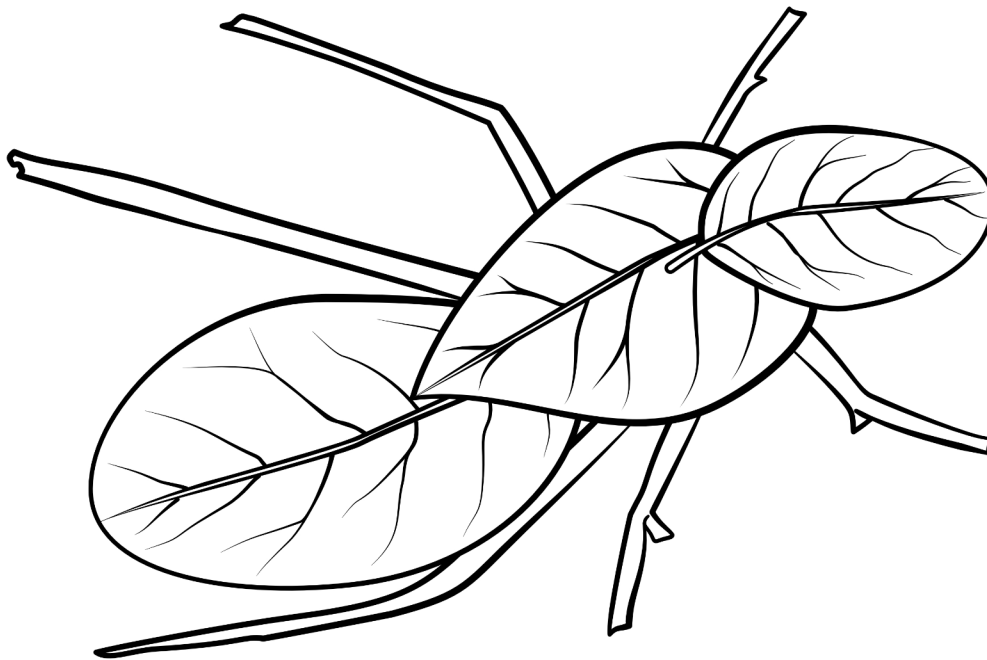
Supplies

- Several different colors and types of leaves
- Other natural materials (acorn caps, sticks, stones etc.)
- Crayons or Markers

Instructions

Can you use leaves to “draw” an animal? Think about what shapes you need: thin, round, small, large.

Use the leaves to build different shapes. Use sticks or other items to add to your animal. Draw the last details with a marker or crayon. See what you can create!



Need some ideas to get started? Read Lois Ehlert’s *Leaf Man*, or check Mortiza E. Sohi’s *Look What I Did with a Leaf!* for inspiration.



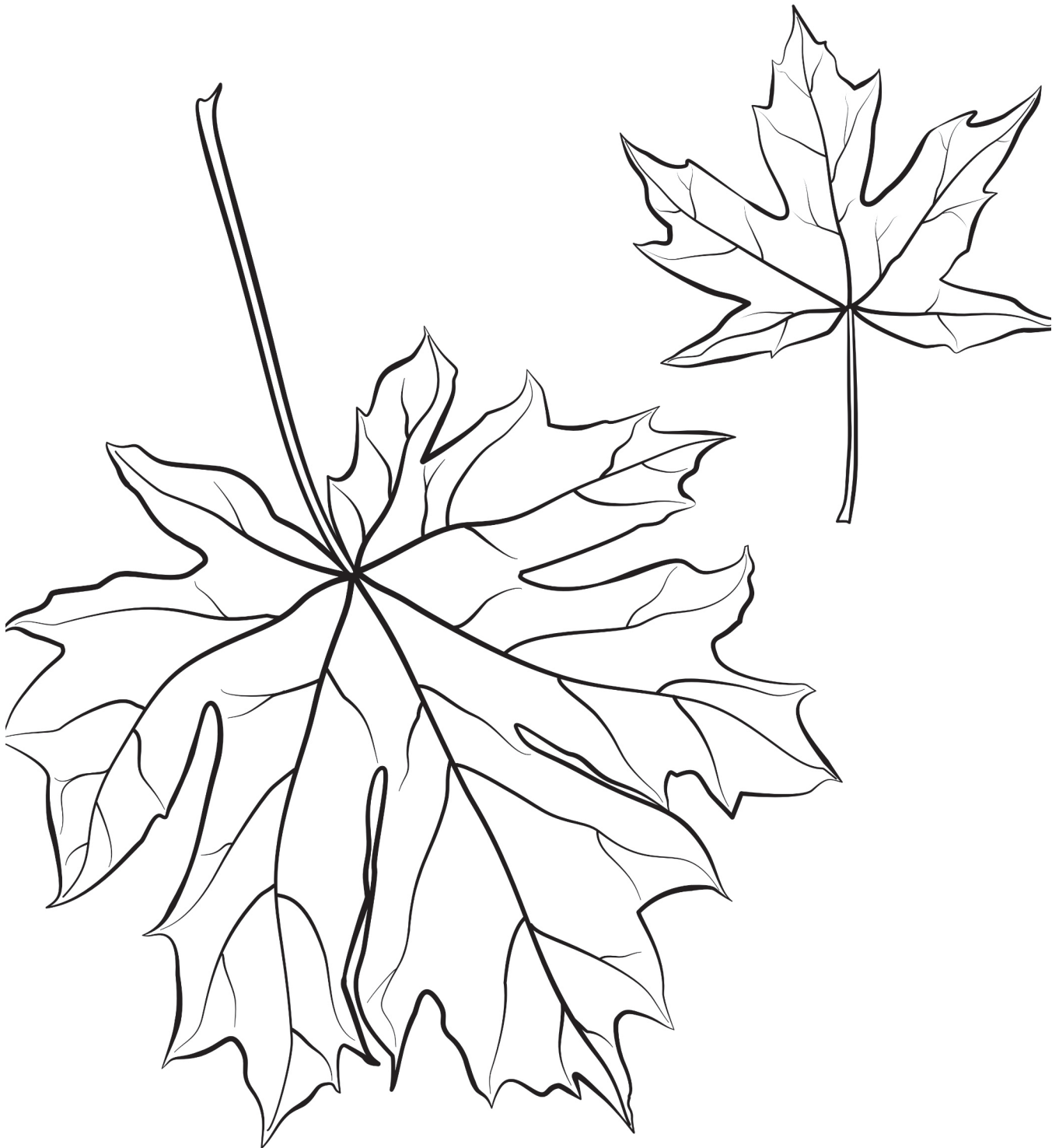
Which is Which?

Oaks leaves usually have knobs are called lobes along the edge of the leaf. Some oaks have round lobes, while others have pointy ones. Which kind do you usually find?

Can you find other leaf shapes in your neighborhood?

Find the Differences

These leaves came from the same tree. Even leaves from the same tree have different shapes! Find some of the differences here.

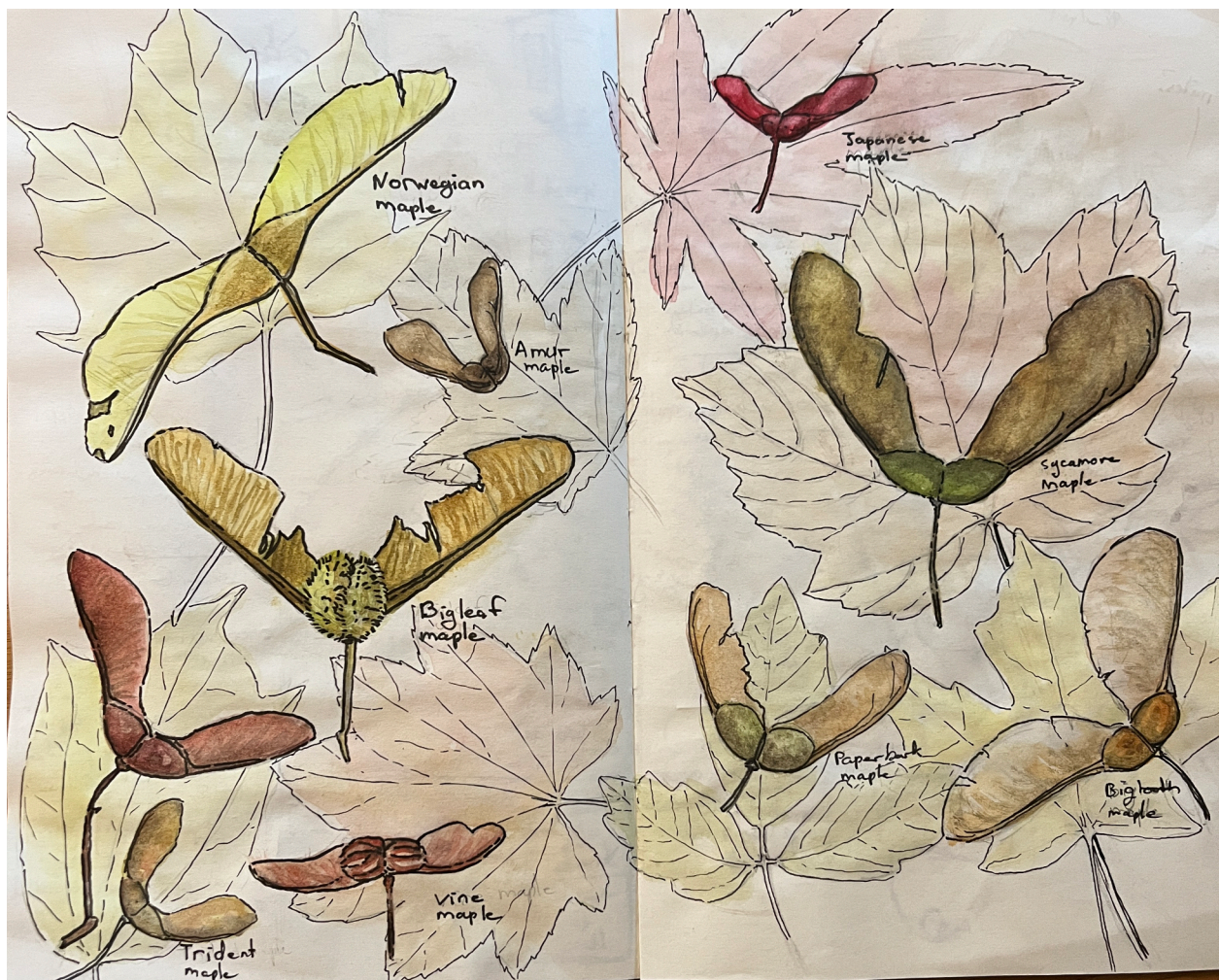


Make a Leaf Journal

How many leaf shapes can you find? (Check the Which is Which activity and the scavenger hunts for some ideas!)

Record each leaf in a notebook or journal. Write down where you found the leaf and the date. If you want, you can draw the tree the leaf came from. Or, you could add notes about the seeds growing on that tree.

You can draw each leaf on a separate page, or make a collection of them like this one!



Tree Colors

by:

A companion activity for *Can a Tree Be Blue?* © 2025 Audrey Sauble



An oak leaf is

green

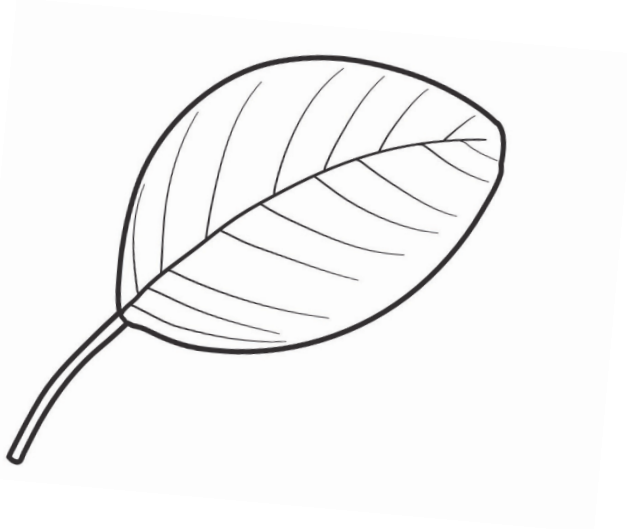


A maple leaf
can be

yellow

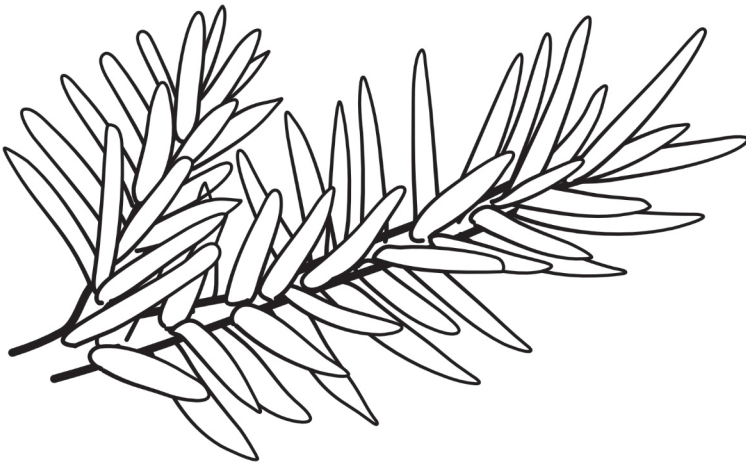
A dogwood leaf
can be

red



An old leaf is

brown



A spruce
tree can be

blue