

Learning Outdoors

Lesson Title: Leaves, Leaves, Leaves	Quick Facts:
Big Idea: Practicing observation skills by comparing leaves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nearly 1000 tree species in North America • many 1000 more types of shrubs and plants • one way to tell species apart is looking at their leaves • all leaves have <u>veins</u> and <u>lobes</u> • fungus, insects or other animals can change the appearance of leaves • leaves can change shape from animals nibbling on them • spiders and insects roll leaves into shelters or use them as cocoons • some insects lay eggs on leaves • plants sometimes react to the eggs and grow over them, forming bumps or growth called <u>galls</u> • most galls do not harm the plant
Anchor Story: <i>Leaf Man</i> by Lois Ehlert ~or~ <i>Look What I Did With a Leaf</i> by Morteza E. Sohi	
Materials & Prep: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • story book • small paper bag containing a variety of leaves collected from nearby shrubs, trees and other plants • leave observation sheet • pencils and clipboards • magnifying lenses (optional) • iPads (optional) 	
Outdoors (procedures) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Review forest safety rules before heading to outdoor class (2) Read <i>Leaf Man</i> and discuss the variety of leaves in pictures (3) Show one leaf from the bag, pass it around and ask children what they notice about it? Colour? Shape? Texture? (introduce vocabulary: veins, teeth, lobes, galls blotches) (4) Discuss how they used their senses (seeing, touching) to make observations (5) Allow children to explore forest, find their own leaf and study it (6) Record findings on leave observation sheet (7) With a buddy find and use leaves and other natural objects to create leaf critters (and photograph leaf creations) (8) Before heading back to school, discuss what observations they made about their leaves (Does their leave have veins? Does it have pieces missing from decay or animals?...) 	
Extensions: <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Math <input type="checkbox"/> Music <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Home Connection </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math- sorting games with leaves collected • Home Connection- find two different leaves at home, draw them in your journal and tell where you found them 	Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observations • work produced • photograph evidence

Lesson plan adapted from "Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature with Young Children" 2012

