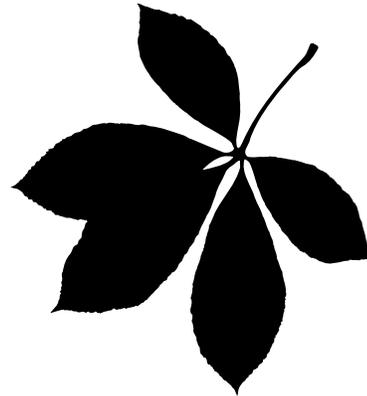


Lovely Leaves

Pre-Visit Activities

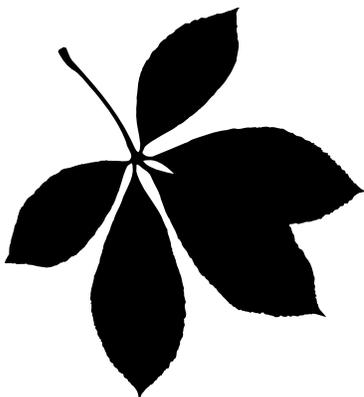


These activities have been designed to help your students prepare for their upcoming trip to the St. Joseph County Parks. By exploring the world of colorful fall leaves in advance, your students will have a better understanding of the activities that they will participate in at the park.



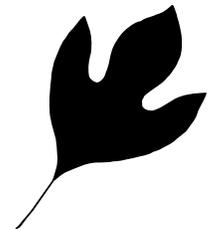
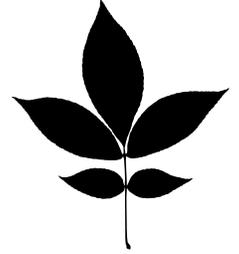
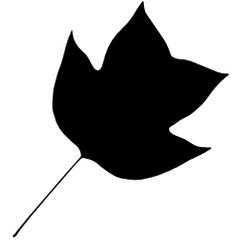
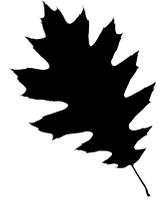
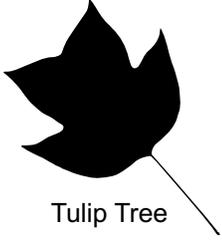
Game: Leaf Pile in the Wind

1. Make one paper leaf for each student. Leaves should be made of fall-colored construction paper: red, yellow, orange and brown. There should be an equal number of leaves of each color.
2. Attach a leaf to each student. Leaves may be pinned or taped to their clothes, or hung around their necks with yarn.
3. Have students sit in a circle on chairs or carpet squares.
4. You are the wind. Call out, "I'm blowing all the RED leaves!" All the students with red leaves have to jump up and find a different chair or carpet square to sit on.
5. Now call out, "I'm blowing all the YELLOW leaves!" All the students with yellow leaves have to jump up and find a different chair or carpet square to sit on.
6. Continue as long as you like. At some point, call out, "I'm blowing ALL the leaves!" Now all the students have to jump up and find a different chair.
7. Variation for older students: one of the students is the wind and stands in the center of the circle. They call out, "I'm blowing all the ORANGE leaves!" While the orange leaves are trying to find a new chair, the wind tries to take one of the empty chairs. Whichever student is left without a chair becomes the wind.



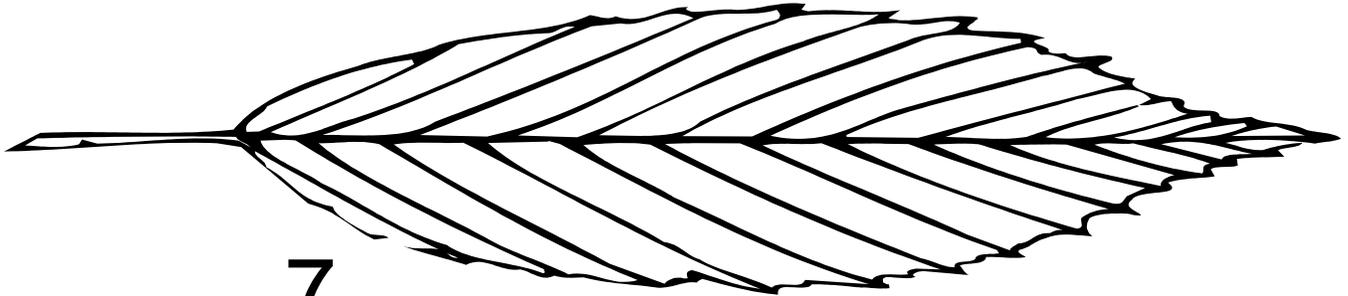
Leaf Match-Up

Leaves come in many shapes. Match up each leaf on the left side of the page with a leaf on the right side of the page by drawing a line between them.

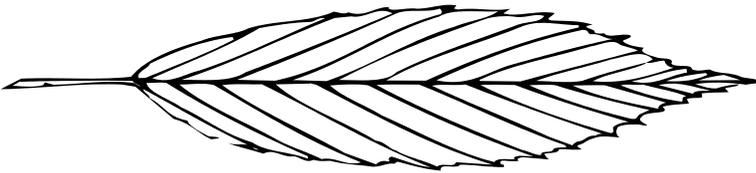


How long is a fall leaf?

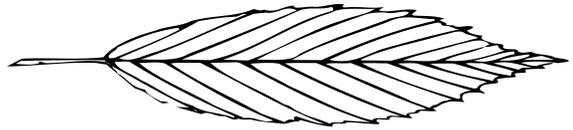
Measure each fall leaf with a ruler
Measure from the tip of the leaf to the tip of the stem.
Write down each leaf's length in inches.
Color the leaves in bright fall colors!



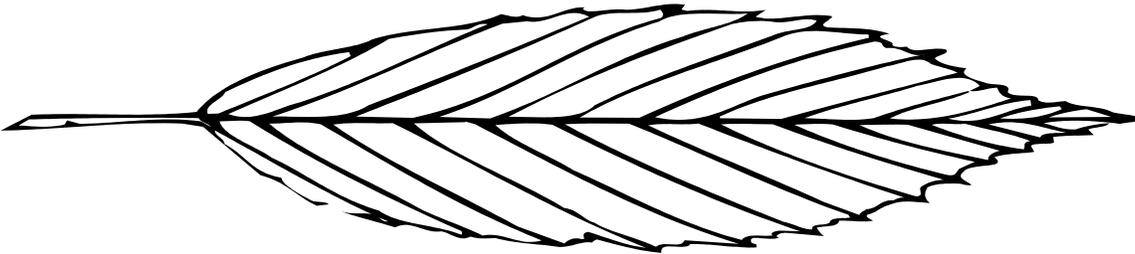
This leaf is 7 inches long.



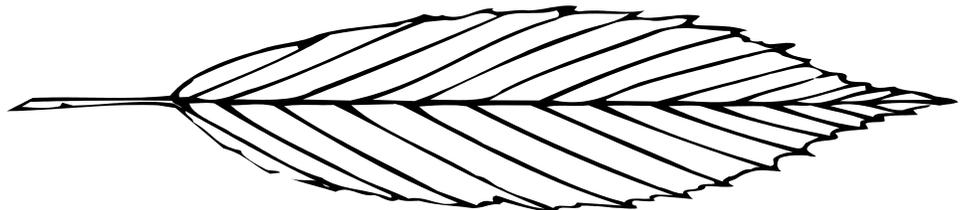
This leaf is _____ inches long.



This leaf is _____ inches long.



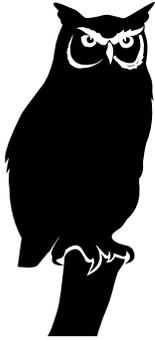
This leaf is _____ inches long.



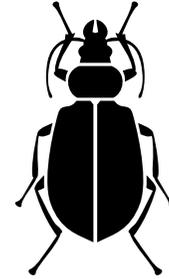
This leaf is _____ inches long.

Life Under the Leaves

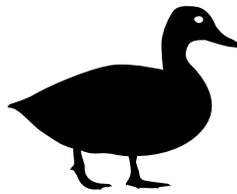
Many animals live under the leaves after the leaves fall to the ground.
Circle the animals that might live under fallen leaves.



Owl



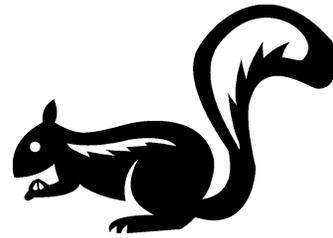
Beetle



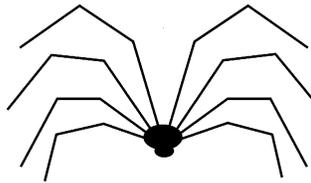
Duck



Worm



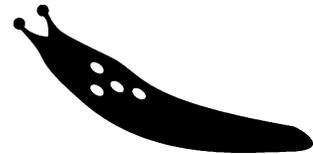
Squirrel



Daddy Longlegs

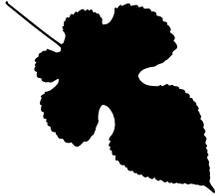


Tadpole



Slug

Be A Leaf



Read this drama aloud to your students and have them perform the actions in parentheses.

You are a leaf on a tree. You start your life as a small bud on the end of a twig (*crouch down into a ball*). You are closed up tight all winter long. In the spring the warm sun shines down on you and slowly, slowly, you begin to open up (*slowly stand up*). You grow and grow until you are a big, shiny, green leaf (*stretch arms up and out*).

You gather sunlight from above (*reach up as high as you can*). The roots of the tree send you water through your stem (*make a slurping noise*). You get air through tiny holes all over yourself (*take a big, noisy breath*).

Then you do something very special. Inside of you, you mix the sunlight, the water and the air (*pretend to stir something in a bowl*) and you turn it into sugar (*rub your tummy and say, "Yum!"*) You send the sugar to your tree's branches, bark, trunk and roots. The sugar gives the tree energy to grow!

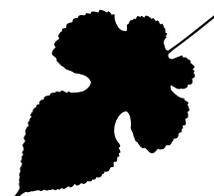
All summer long you keep mixing sunlight (*reach*), water (*slurp*), and air (*breathe*) and mixing them together (*stir*) to make sugar (*yum*)!

But after a while the weather gets colder (*shiver and rub your arms*). The tree's roots stop sending you water and the sunlight is not as warm. The tree does not need you to make sugar any more. You get very dry (*droop a little bit*) and you turn a new color! One day, when the wind blows, you fall from the tree (*jump one time*). You swirl and spin through the air, around and around, up and down, until finally you land on the ground (*swirl and spin around the room and finally sit or lie down*).

Who knows what will happen to you next? Maybe a squirrel will use you to build a warm nest (*wrap your arms around yourself*). Maybe a shy salamander will hide underneath you (*cover your eyes with your hands*). Maybe you will turn into dirt to help new plants grow in the spring.

Or maybe...some children will rake you up into a big pile (*everyone stand up and gather together in the middle of the room*)...and then they'll back up...and take a running start...and jump in the pile...and scatter the leaves all over the yard! (*Run all around the room*).

The end.



Design a Leaf



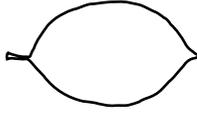
Some leaves have edges that are wavy or sharp.



or smooth



Some leaves are shaped like an oval or a triangle.



or a star



Some leaves have just one piece



and some have lots of pieces.



If you were a tree, what would your leaf look like? Draw it below. What color would it turn in the fall? Color your leaf.