



Leaf ID

Find and identify leaves, then
create your own leaf guide!



Step 1: Collect Leaves

Gather a selection of different tree leaves. Try to collect leaves that are fresh and not brown and dried. You may have trees around your home you can use, but if not, you could visit a local park!

Step 2: Identify Leaves

Once you've gathered your leaves, you need to identify them! There are many different great leaf ID books and websites to choose from, but we recommend using this one:

www.arborday.org/trees/whattree/whatTree.cfm?ItemID=E6A

Step 3: Create a Leaf Book

There are many different ways to record the leaves you find. We've listed just a few ideas below, but feel free to be creative and make your own leaf guide!

Photo Book

Take photos of the leaves, bark, fruit, seeds, nuts, flowers, and/or the entire tree and put them in an album or scrapbook.

Be sure to label everything, and consider adding extra information about the tree.

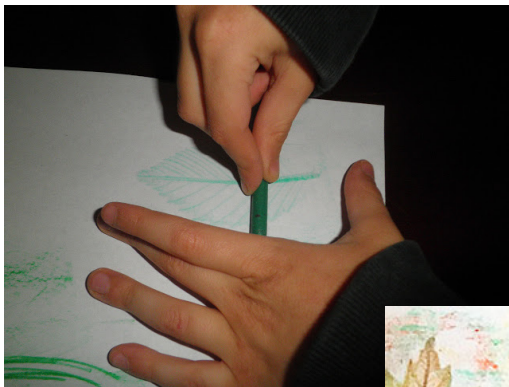
Here is an example of what a photo with the tree trunk and leaf might look like.



Sketch Book and Crayon Rubbings

Collect samples of leaves, nuts, flowers, and/or seeds from the tree you would like to identify. Draw in a sketch book the shape of the tree and any patterns you see in the bark. Take note of any wildlife or other features of the tree.

To do a leaf rubbing or bark rubbing, you will need a crayon with the paper wrapping removed. Place the leaf on a flat surface with the back side of the leaf facing up. (The veins on the back of the leaf are more prominent than on the front.) Lay a piece of white paper on top of the leaf, then color the paper on top of the leaf with your crayon. Make sure your crayon is laying down and that you are using the side of the crayon to color, not the end! The shape of your leaf will begin to appear on your paper. Make sure you color all the way out to the edges of the leaf in order to see the entire leaf shape in your crayon rubbing.



Be sure to lay the crayon flat when you color!

Use different colored crayons to add to your leaf rubbings!



Leaf Press Book

There are many ways to press and preserve leaves without buying a leaf press, though this is an option, too!

One way is to use a phone book (not the glossy pages). Place the leaves in between the pages, leaving several empty pages between each leaf. Place the book under a piece of furniture or something else heavy to apply pressure. Leave the book under pressure for several days so the leaves have plenty of time to dry out.

Another way is to make your own leaf press out of cardboard. Cut the cardboard into two pieces (to fit the leaf sample), and fold a paper towel around the leaves. Stack the paper towel with the leaves in between the cardboard. You may stack several leaf samples on top of each other between cardboard, but you may need to add an additional paper towel in between each sample. After stacking, place rubber bands around your homemade leaf press.



Stack several heavy books on top. Depending on the size of your samples, it can take anywhere from 2 days to 2 weeks for your sample to dry.

After the sample has dried, you may simply spray a clear coat on the leaves and adhere them to cardstock, or use wax paper (Contact Paper) to keep them better protected. An example of this is below.

Check out this instructional video on Facebook: <http://bit.ly/36llrO8>

Contact Paper Method



1. Buy a roll of contact paper.
2. Cut the contact paper to fit the size of your paper.
3. Arrange your leaf or leaves on a piece of paper (cardstock works best).
4. Peel the backing off the contact paper, then lay the sticky side of contact paper over your leaves, adhering them to the page.

You can then write or type your leaf and tree descriptions on an adjacent page or to the back of the leaf page.

Another option is to adhere your leaf to a template that looks like this one! Here is the link:

<https://bit.ly/3tyWDD0>



Common Name: Hackberry Scientific Name: <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	
Picture, or Sketch of Seeds, Fruit, Bark, or Tree 	
Tree ID Checklist <input type="checkbox"/> Needle-Leaf <input type="checkbox"/> Scale-Leaf <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Broadleaf Seeds/Fruit: <input type="checkbox"/> Cone <input type="checkbox"/> Key <input type="checkbox"/> Pod <input type="checkbox"/> Acorns <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berrylike Fruit <input type="checkbox"/> Fleshy Fruit <input type="checkbox"/> Ball, Capsules, & Tufted Fruit (Deciduous / Broadleaf) Branching: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternate <input type="checkbox"/> Opposite Leaf: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Palmately Compound <input type="checkbox"/> Pinnately Compound Leaf Margin: <input type="checkbox"/> Lobed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toothed <input type="checkbox"/> untoothed Leaf Autumn Leaf Color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange/Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Flower Color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> Cream <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Pink <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Thorns? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Leaf Sample or Leaf Rubbing 	
Notes: <u>Branches may become deformed with bushy growth called witches'-brooms. Bark is gray or light brown with corky warts. Leaves may be deformed with galls caused by tiny plant lice. Hackberry leaves are the larval food plant of Hackberry Emperor Butterflies.</u>	