Nashua River Watershed Investigations for Grades K-8

Lesson # 1-2

Title: 1-2 Leaf Compare: Which Leaf is the Biggest?

Grade Level & Standard: Grade 1
1-LS3-1. Use information from observations (first-hand and from media) to identify similarities and differences among individual plants or animals of the same kind.

Objective:
Students will observe two leaves from one tree and discover that the leaves may vary in size and/or shape.

Vocabulary:

- **Maple Tree** - a tree that has leaves that look like a hand
- **Length** - how long an object is using a ruler
- **Width** - how wide an object is using a ruler

Discussion Points: If we look at a tree, for example a Maple tree, why might some of the leaves be bigger? Would all the leaves be the same shape?

Materials:

- leaves or copies of leaves from a maple tree.
- paper and pencils
- glue
- clip boards
- rulers

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Procedure (40 minutes to 60 minutes):

1. Begin by showing some leaves that the teacher has collected or copies of leaves included in this packet. Notice how some are bigger than others.
2. Go outside and have students collect two leaves of the same species under a tree. A maple tree is a good example but any tree will work.
3. Sit down and trace two leaves onto the data sheet.
4. Either indoors or outdoors, students can use a ruler to measure the width and length of each leaf. Which one is the biggest? Why are some bigger than others? Why do all the leaves have the same shape?
5. Students write their name on their leaf, put it in the newspaper, and press their leaf in a book.
6. After two days, students remove their leaves from the book and class works together to glue everyone's leaves on a long paper, small to large.

Data Sheet: (attached)

- Leaf Compare data sheet
- Maple Leaf Example sheet
- Poster example

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LEAF COMPARE! NRWI Lesson 1-2

NAME_____

1) **Trace a MAPLE LEAF.** Trace your HAND over the leaf.

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2) **MEASURE one BIG LEAF and one small leaf!**

My BIG LEAF is _____inches long and _____inches wide.

My small leaf is _____ inches long and _____inches wide

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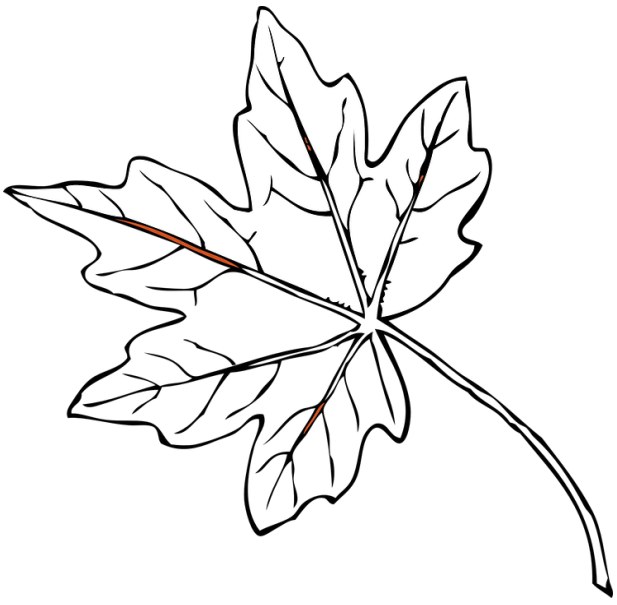
Maple Leaf Examples



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Poster Example

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