



NSDAR Educational Resources Committee
“Identifying Tree Leaves”
Lesson Plan

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State: Tennessee

Grade Level: 8th and 9th Grade

1. **Identify the standards to be addressed:** Science Studies 8-9th grade – Identify tree leaves and match them to the tree to which they bud from. Collect and place in plastic sheets on paper and place in folders. Mark each one so they are connected to a certain tree and be prepared to share with the class
2. **Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:** Learn how to match leaves with trees. Identify the difference between compound and simple leaves. Identify fruit trees and trees with needles.
3. **Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:** Handouts with pictures and characteristics of different leaves and their names. Plastic sheets, paper, tape and folders
4. **Introduction of the topic:** Protecting our forest and knowing what’s there if you are asked.
5. **Procedure for instruction:** You can take a hike in the woods and look around at the forest. Collect and make good notes so as to put together your collection when you return home. Pay close attention to all characteristics, twigs, leaves, bark and buds.
6. **Lesson closure:** What did you learn during your hike and was there something about a particular tree you would like to know more about.
7. **Assessment of student understanding:** Prepare a presentation for the class. Make notes for group discussion and suggest ways to help protect our forest for future generations.

Additional educational and historical threads that could be explored with identifying trees and their uses:

1. Make a list of hardwoods and softwoods and note their different uses today compared to early 1800s.
2. What type of tree could be used for furniture?
3. What could be used for the house structure?
4. What can be used for the barn?
5. My Dad was raised in a house built by his Father in early 1900s. The inside walls are made of American Chestnut. Does that tree still exist today? If not what happened to it?
6. Compare the log homes built in the 1800s to those that are built today. Are they built the same way today? How are shingles made? Wood floors? Split rail fencing? What is the history about the log cabin – from whence did it originate?
7. Many settlers carved wood. What kind of wood was used and why?
8. There is a paper mill called Resolute Forest Products, which used to be known as Bowaters in Calhoun TN. Identify the source of newsprint paper.
9. Investigate the making of furniture – what is dovetail construction? What was the purpose of wooden pegs? Mitered corners?
10. Explain tongue-and-groove flooring?
11. Explain the Lincoln Log toys – notching and chinking
12. Investigate the log cabins that survive today.
 - a. New Windsor Cantonment, New York -- Washington's troops last encampment (1782-83). One of the soldier's cabins was moved there in the 1960s.
 - b. Palatine settlement on the Hudson in 1710 – the house is still there that was built in the 1720s – sits on the original site on the east side of the Hudson River.
13. The use of wood by sailing ships – and the need for naval supplies
 - a. Trees, tar and pitch (Hint: University of North Carolina's attendees are called the "tar heels", also there is a Tarboro, NC)
 - b. German Palatine settlers came in 1709-1710 to the Hudson River to support the British naval needs, but the trees on the Hudson did not have the kind of pitch they needed. (So, these settlers were indentured to the Governor instead.)

14. Transportation – use of wood for:

- a. Carriages, wagons, wheels, stage coach
- b. Sailing ships, masts
- c. England had a great navy, but needed more timber to support new ship construction
- d. Bridges and covered bridges – now may still exist?
- e. Plank roads

Investigating all of the above will enrich a student's knowledge of the life of early settlers and stress the importance of trees and their uses.