



Tree Identification

Grades: 5th-8th

Duration: 80 minutes for instruction

Description: "I can name that tree!" This lesson sparks students' curiosity about the natural world through the lens of trees, as they gain the skills and vocabulary that empowers them to investigate and understand trees.

Science-based and tree-centric, 'Tree Identification' introduces students to the concept of taxonomy. Equipped with leaf samples, a dichotomous key and new vocabulary, students learn to differentiate and identify varied tree species. Taking their tools outdoors, the students explore their school campus and identify 3-4 different trees.



Objectives:

- Students will know why it is important to be able to identify trees.
- Students will describe and classify types of trees using a dichotomous key.
- Students will understand the need for biodiversity and trees in the environment.

Evaluation:

- The teacher will be asked to fill out an evaluation to provide feedback on the lesson and to rate what they believe their students learned.

Key Vocabulary: Seed, Fruit, Pollen, Ovule, Pistil, Stamen, Simple leaf, Scale-like leaf, Compound Leaf, Leaf Margin, Needles, Lobed, Deciduous, Evergreen, Adaptation

Standards Addressed:

Next Generation Science Standards	Common Core English Language Arts Standards
5-ESS3-1., MS-LS1-4., MS-ESS3-4., MS-LS2-5.	SL.5.1., SL.6.1., SL.7.1., SL.8.1.

Outline:

Activity	Time
Introductions	5 minutes
Classifying Activity and Discussion	15 minutes
Dichotomous Key Instruction	15 minutes
Leaf Vocabulary Instruction	15 minutes
Outdoor Exploration	20 minutes
Closure	10 minutes