

Leaf Slides



Take a closer look at tree leaves to understand their structure and function. Help develop pupil's view of leaves and their significance within the environment. The popular leaf slide activity examines the various colours, shapes and patterns of leaves.

It is a particularly good activity for autumn. Its versatility ensures its use in virtually all school's programmes and its simplicity means it can be used with a wide range of ages and abilities.

Learning outcomes: leaf shape and form, distribution patterns, discuss a plant's water needs, photosynthesis, classification and keys (venation is used as a characteristic, including parallel veins for linear leaves), colour comparisons (used in conjunction with maths), listening, talking and describing, stimulation for imagination and creativity.



Equipment

- Various leaves (enough for each pupil)
- Card frames, plastic wallets or empty clear CD cases
- Outdoor or indoor activity with a suitable supply of leaves



Instructions

1. Ask every child to collect their favourite leaf, choosing one they like the colour or shape of. This works best with smaller leaves. Their leaf is their entry into the woodland slide show.
2. Insert the leaves into the card frames or plastic wallets. Ask the pupils to position their leaf so that the best view is in the frame.
3. Form the pupils into a circle, explaining they are the carousel for the slide show.
4. Each pupil holds their leaf up to the light to have a closer look at it. When the leader claps their hands the slides are passed to the right, so that each pupil has a new leaf to look at. Continue 'clicking' until every pupil has their own leaf back.
5. Encourage the pupils to discuss what they saw in the different leaves. Promote talk about the different shape, thickness, texture, colour and any markings or veins.
6. Once the slide show has finished the leaves can either be returned to the ground or taken back to the classroom for further investigation and discussion.

