



## Native Tree Leaves Activity Set

### Activity #10: Create your own leaf ID guide

On rainy days it might be hard to practice your tree ID outside. This indoor activity will get you ready to explore the trees in your area once the sun comes out! Alternatively, this activity can be conducted in the field. Students can create guides for the trees they come across while on a walk.

#### Goals

- Practice tree ID based on leaves indoors
- Research tree leaves

#### Materials

- Native Tree Leaves in your Neighbourhood biodiversity sheet

**Exercise 1: Tree Leaf ID Guide.** Field guides are resources that help a person identify organisms in nature. A good field guide will help you connect with the natural world and understand who's in your neighbourhood. Even though there are tons of great tree ID guides out there, the perfect guide is created and used by the same person. Using the Native Tree Leaves in your Neighbourhood biodiversity sheet ask the students to create a field guide that includes 10 native trees.

Field guides typically have pictures of what they're referencing. Students are encouraged to include leaf drawings in their field guides. Students can label their leaf drawings with botanical terms and personal notes for how they recognize the leaves. If students prefer written descriptions over visual drawings of the leaves, they are welcome to include more detailed notes. Students are also encouraged to conduct some research on the trees they've chosen so they can include information about the trees' natural history, range, and fun facts.

Example Leaf Guide:

# Shellbark Hickory

• Native to Southern Ontario

7-9 leaflets

Leaflets are alternate



Finely toothed margin

Compound leaf

Fun fact: Lots of animals eat Shellbark Hickory nuts!