



## Native Tree Leaves Activity Set

### Activity #7: Your Perfect Tree

Our world is filled with a large diversity of trees. A tree's physical characteristics like its leaves, bark, flowers, seeds, and shape help define it. Different trees also perform unique roles in the ecosystem they live in. If you could create "your perfect tree" what would it look like?

#### Goals

- Creatively use botanical terms
- Understand what makes different tree species unique

#### Materials

- Paper
- Pencil crayons
- Native Tree Leaves in your Neighbourhood biodiversity sheet

**Exercise 1: Brainstorm.** Invite the students to think about the trees in their neighborhood. Do they have any favorite trees? Are there any tree characteristics they enjoy?

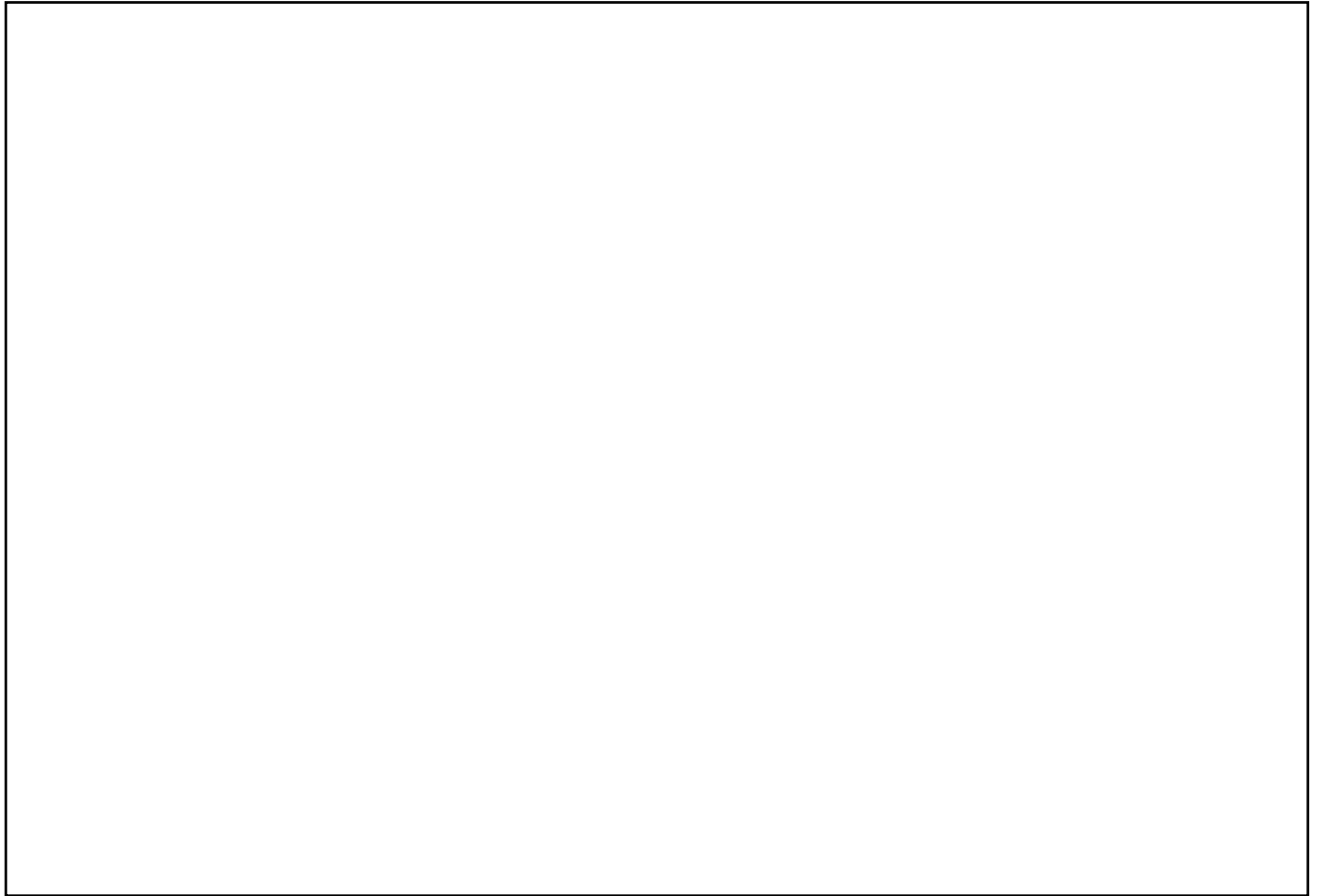
**Exercise 2: Make your perfect tree.** Now that the students have a sense of what kinds of trees they prefer, invite them to draw their perfect tree. Ask the students to consider how they would describe their tree's leaves. What kind of bark does their tree have (smooth, rough, peeling). Does their tree make flowers or cones?

**Exercise 3: Name your tree.** Now that the students have drawn their tree, it should be given a name! Trees are named so that we can clearly identify them as well as understand their role in the ecosystem and their relationship with other trees.

**Exercise 4: Your tree in the web of life.** If you want to take it a step further, imagine what habitat your tree would occupy. Is it found in wet soil near a beach, or in a dense forest? Based on your chosen habitat for your tree, try and picture what kind of animals may live on or near the tree. Include information on who pollinates the tree's flowers and how the seeds are dispersed.

# Your Perfect Tree!

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Tree's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

About your tree:

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