



Native Tree Leaves Activity Set

Activity #1: Vocabulary check in

Proper vocabulary can help us accurately describe an organism and how it functions. Without realizing it, you have all acquired vocabulary that helps you describe various animals. But, what about plants? This activity will help you understand how valuable vocabulary is.

Goals

- Appreciate the importance of proper vocabulary

Materials

- None

Exercise 1: Let's pretend you're welcoming a new student to this classroom. This student comes from Australia, and they haven't gotten to know our Ontario animals yet. How would you describe the following animals to them? *Write down key words the students used to describe each animal.*

- A bear
- A blue jay
- A moose

Reflection: Note all of the robust words the students used to describe each animal. Do these descriptions accurately describe each animal? Would someone be able to recognize a squirrel without ever having seen one because of the description offered?

Exercise 2: This student is also not familiar with our Ontario plants. How would you describe the following plants to them?

- A maple leaf
- A black walnut leaf
- A Northern White-Cedar Leaf

Reflection: Were the students able to come up with a variety of words to describe each leaf? How do the leaf descriptions compare to the animal descriptions, which ones were better done?