

LEAF MATES

Objective

Provides students with an understanding of the different characteristics of a leaf including colour, shape and texture.

Duration

30 minutes

Group Size

20-30 students in groups of 10

Settings

Area containing leaves.

Materials

None.

Background

Students are to collect a leaf, study its features and characters, then be able to pick it out when muddled up with other leaves "hence the term leaf mates".

LESSON PLAN

Introduction (2 minutes)

Explain to students that each leaf has different characteristics and that not two leaves are identical. In this activity they will be collecting a leaf (their mate or friend) and studying its features and characters.

Setting the Scene (5 minutes)

Have example leaves to show the students and explain some of the features they should look for. This will include: colour, shape, size, chewed bits, galls etc.

Activity (20 minutes)

Make very clear at the beginning of the activity that students must watch out for each other when finding their leaf and when bending down in a group to get their leaf to mind their heads.

1. Send students out to a designated area to collect their "leaf mate"
2. Give students 2-3 minutes to get to know the characteristics of their leaf.
3. In a group of around 10 students, stand in a circle and ask them to put their leaf in the middle.
4. The students then turn their backs, whilst you or another adult muddle the leaves up.
5. Let the students turn around, count to ten and say "GO"
6. Students then have to find their leaf mate in the pile of leaves.

Conclusion (3 minutes)

- Ask the a few of the students how each individual student recognised their own leaf.
- Finish up by reinforcing that each leaf is different and there is never an identical leaf.

More information

Contact Sandy Dellwo, Land Services Officer –
Education on 03 5880 1415.

Centre. For more information visit:

www.reec.nsw.edu.au.

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provided by the Riverina Environmental Education

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