



Teacher's Corner Lesson Plans

*Helping Teachers and Students Make the Most of
their Outdoor Classroom*

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Leaf Slides*

Jeff Reading

Grade level: Grade 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Provincial curriculum links: Alberta.

Subject: Plant Communities (Grade 4), Trees and Forests (Grade 6), Characteristics of Living Things (Grade 7), Interactions and Ecosystems (Grade 8), Species Diversity (Grade 9).

Keywords: Leaf.

Description

To provide a focusing tool for students to explore the detail in leaves.

Curriculum Framework

Specific Lesson Goals:

- Awareness of unique features, functions and details of leaves

Preparation

Preparation time: 30 minutes to construct leaf slides unless un-processed commercial slide covers are used.

Length of lesson: 20-30 minutes, depending on how many ecosystems are compared using the activity.

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Procedure

1. Gather together some un-used slide covers from a local photography shop, or make something similar using laminated cardstock.
2. Using a large leaf (preferably dead) introduce some the details contained in leaves. Discuss colour, veins, margins, shape, etc.
3. Distribute a leaf slide to each student and ask them to go and find a leaf, but do not collect it off a living plant.
4. Place the leaf into the leaf slide and hold it up to the light and observe.
5. Ask the group to stand in a circle facing inward.
6. Tell them are just like a slide carousel. Every time you say “click” they should pass their leaf slide to the right.
7. Continue passing the slides until everyone has their own slide back again.

Discussion and Questions

- Whole class completes activity as a group. Follow up could be verbal, artistic interpretation or written summary.

Student Evaluation

With the students, develop a rating scale for student participation. Use the rating scale as a self-evaluation tool.

Enrichment and Extension Activities

- Repeat this activity in other ecosystems or habitats to compare/contrast leaves. Review key features, vocabulary and lesson objectives with regard to leaf structures.