

TEACHER NOTES

Science: Biology

Classification & Variation - Identifying Trees / Leaves

Contextual Summary

This resource is for students in upper key stage 2 and relates to the 'Working Scientifically' part of the Science National Curriculum, focusing on identifying leaf features, and making classification keys.

The task links to specific aspects of the tree-climbing environment, notably the trees and plants in Appley Park and their variation in features and characteristics. Tasks are designed to appeal to students in upper key stage 2.

Although this is an 'on-site' resource, the main focus of the task will be to use the data they have collated about the leaves to produce an

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students wait for their tree-climb, or after its completion.

Students will find common leaves found in Appley and will identify their characteristics and features using a table featuring key questions. Back in the classroom they will use their information to produce an identification key based on the Appley trees.

Ideally, teachers will have introduced students to simple dichotomous keys (a key with two branches at each stage).

The post-visit aspects of the task enable students to work together in groups or as a class to produce accurate and effective keys.

Ability Levels

There are two variants of this resource, one for low ability upper key stage 2 students, and one for high ability upper key stage 2 students.

The language has been simplified in the lower ability resource to support low literacy students.

Teachers could adjust/amend questions as required to suit individual needs, or they could place students of different abilities together in groups for support, particularly for the follow-up identification key work.

Key skills practised in this unit:

- ▶ Working scientifically
- ▶ Identifying features of variation
- ▶ Recording data
- ▶ Working together
- ▶ Creating classification keys to enable identification of leaves

Relationship to Curriculum

The above skills are required to be taught and practised as per the National Curriculum, for upper key stage 2 Science - *working scientifically: using classification keys.*



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GOODLEAF
TREE CLIMBING

SUBJECT

Science (Biology)

UNIT

Classification & Variation

OPPORTUNITIES FOR USE

- ✗ Pre-Visit
- ✓ On-Site Activity
- ✓ Post-Visit

CURRICULUM / SYLLABUS

- ✓ National Curriculum 2014
- ✓ Curriculum for Excellence

Applies to Resources numbered:

108011
108012

Learning Opportunities

Pre-Visit

Students could be introduced to identification keys and their functions/process etc.

During the Visit

Completion of the resource/s linked to this Teacher Note:

Resource ID: [108011](#) (KS2U low ability) or [108012](#) (KS2U higher ability)

Post Visit

Completion in class of the Appley Leaf Identification Keys by students in groups, using their on-site recorded data.

Opportunities for follow-up project work also include looking at bark and branch features and developing a more...

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Enrichment Opportunities

- ✓ Opportunities exist for students to gain valuable practice in the area of working scientifically.
- ✓ They are applying practical skills by working scientifically with trees within their habitat, and are formulating their own scientific process in producing identification/classification keys for Appley's common leaf types.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Students will have worked scientifically
- ✓ They will demonstrate an understanding of how to identify key features of leaves
- ✓ Students will be able to identify tree types based on their leaves' characteristics.
- ✓ Students will produce their own identification keys using their collated data from Appley Park.

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