



Leaf Collection Book

Objective: To learn about the diversity of trees and leaves found in Canadian forests.

Abstract: Canada is home to approximately 402.1 million hectares of forest and wilderness areas.¹ Being home to 10% of the world's forests,² there are approximately 180 types of trees throughout Canada to discover!³

This activity encourages children and youth to have an interactive learning experience with the Canadian outdoors, while discovering the diversity of trees and plants in their surrounding environments.

Number of participants: 1+ (young children should be accompanied by parents)

Total planning time: < 1 hour

Total time for participants: 2-3 hours

Appropriate age of participants: 4+ years

Materials:

- Paper bag (to collect leaves and plants)
- Notebook (with blank or lined pages)
- Tape and/or glue
- Writing utensils (pens, markers, crayons, etc.)
- Books and/or websites about leaves and trees (Resources provided)

Action Plan:

- 1) Before heading out into a forest or park, make sure to plan out your route and find a safe path to hike through. You can search for maps through the Ontario Provincial Parks Website [<http://www.ontarioparks.com/>], or any local guides. Introduce the participants to the activity by reading some books about trees, and generating a discussion about the diversity of trees found in Canadian forests.
- 2) With all your materials, go on a walk in your chosen park or forest. Collect as many diverse fallen leaves and plants that you can find – they can have different colours, shapes, etc. (**Note:** It is important to collect leaves and plants that have already fallen on the ground, so as not disturb the natural cycle of growth.)

- 3) Using tape or glue, organize the gathered leaves in your notebook – you can make a collage or organize each leaf on one page. Then, investigate information about the leaves and plants you have collected by using your books and resources. What are the differences between your leaves? Similarities? What tree did the leaf come from? You can do this step as a break in your hike, or afterwards at home.
- 4) Once home, try to label all of the leaves to their appropriate names. Use websites and books for reference.
- 5) Share your experience by uploading your project report onto the online Project Database [<http://www.janegoodall.ca/members-project-registry.php>].

Resources to get you started:

Books about leaf types:

Trees and Leaves CD-ROM and Book, by Dover Publisher, 48 ed. (2004)

A Field Guide to Eastern Trees (Peterson Field Guides), by George A. Petrides

Forests of the Nation: Exploring Canada's Model Forests with inspector McTree, by Marie Resmer

Websites on the types of trees and leaves found in Canadian forests:

Natural Resources Canada - Trees of Ontario: <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/factsheets/>

Natural Resources Canada - Community trees of the Prairie provinces:
<http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/index/commtreesprairies>

Tree Canada - Trees in Canada:
http://www.treecanada.ca/site/?page=programs_trees&lang=en

*The Jane Goodall Institute is not responsible for the content of external websites.

Contact:

For more information about this project, contact roots_shoots@janegoodall.ca

¹ <http://canadaforests.nrcan.gc.ca/keyfacts/ca/economy>

² <http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/stat/forest-eng.php>

³ http://www.treecanada.ca/site/?page=publication_download_canadaforest&lang=en