

Deciduous Trees Discussion and/or Activity:

1. How are deciduous trees different from coniferous trees?

2. What kind of trees grow in your yard? Use the leaf guide (below) to identify 5 deciduous trees in your yard or neighborhood. Or with help from an adult, use the dichotomous key (below) to identify your trees.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | |

3. Try the deciduous tree matching sheet (below).

4. What kinds of animals do you see in and around the deciduous trees? Why do you think small mammals live in or near deciduous trees?

5. Like all plants, trees make seeds. Deciduous trees make fruits in which the seeds are protected. Match the tree to its fruit in this worksheet (below).

6. Name three things in your house made from trees.

- | |
|----------|
| 1. _____ |
| 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ |

7. Name three other uses for wood.

- | |
|----------|
| 1. _____ |
| _____ |
| 2. _____ |
| _____ |
| 3. _____ |
| _____ |

Color and draw the leaf veins of these common trees.
Then use them to identify trees the near you!

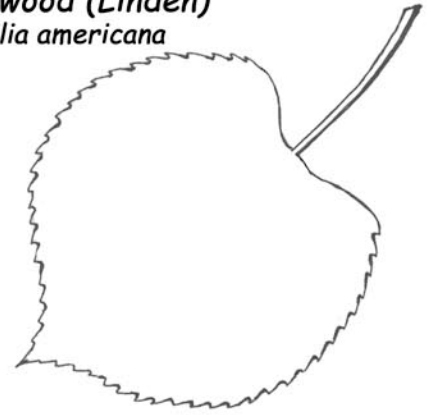


Maple (Red)
Acer rubrum

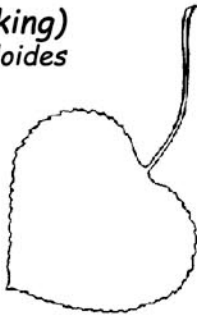


Maple (Sugar)
Acer saccharum

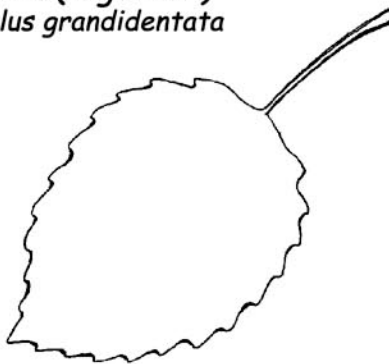
Basswood (Linden)
Tilia americana



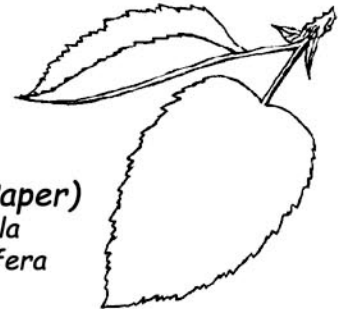
Aspen (Quaking)
Populus tremuloides



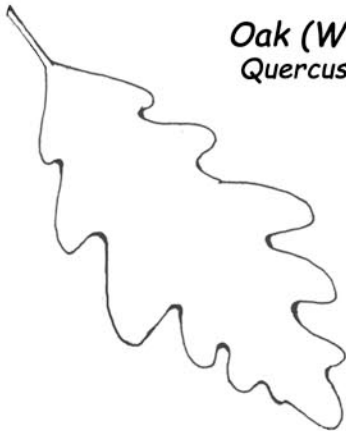
Aspen (Bigtooth)
Populus grandidentata



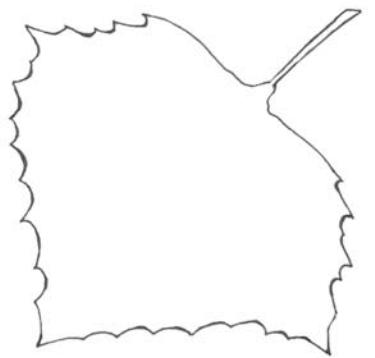
Birch (Paper)
Betula papyrifera



Oak (White)
Quercus alba

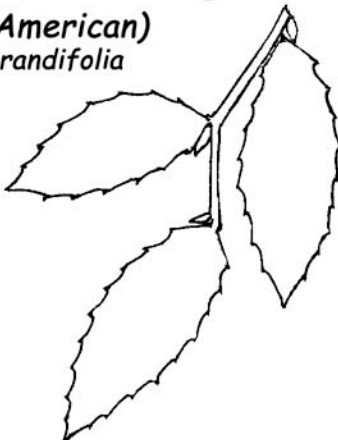


Oak (Red)
Quercus rubra

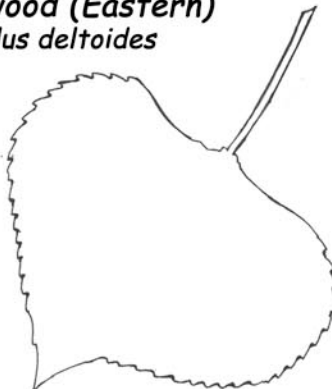


Sycamore (American)
Platanus occidentalis

Beech (American)
Fagus grandifolia



Cottonwood (Eastern)
Populus deltoides

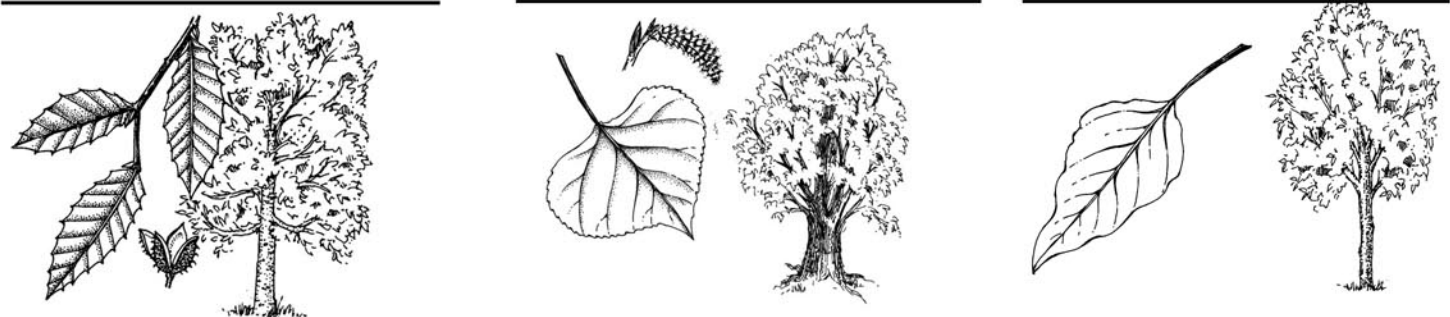
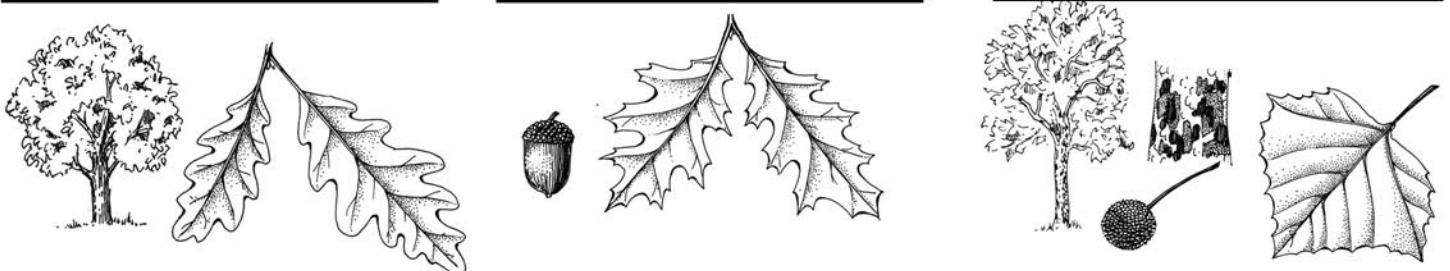
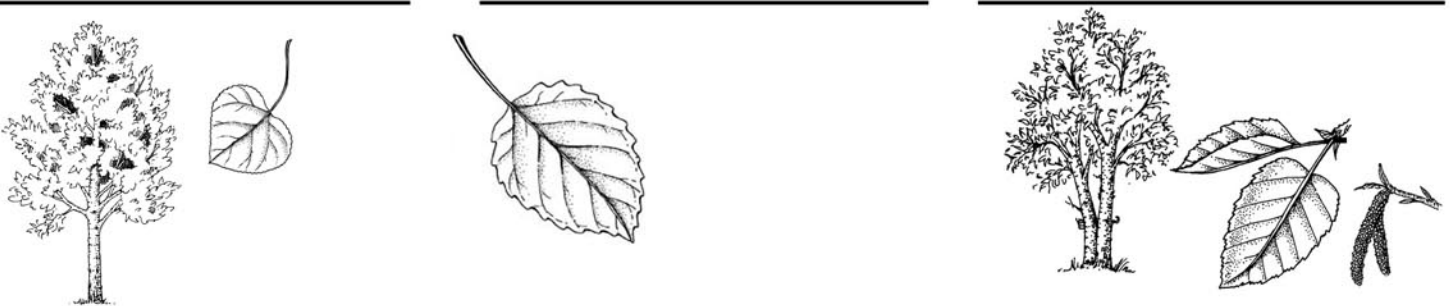
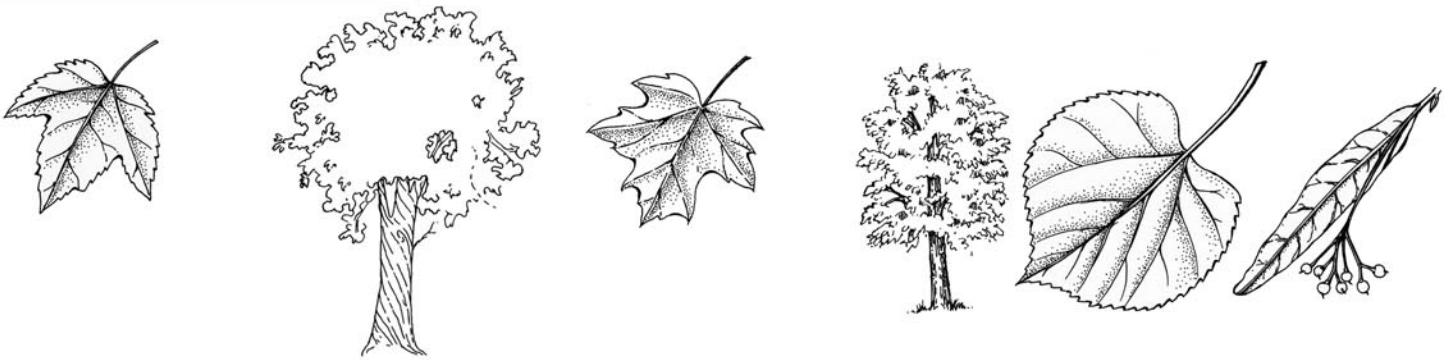


Poplar (Balsam)
Populus balsamifera



Making TRACKS guides are generated by citizen scientists like you! For more information, visit: www.makingtrackschallenge.com. Thank you for caring for wild places everywhere!

Name These Common Deciduous Trees



Match the Tree (Leaf) to its Fruit

hemlock



hickory



sycamore



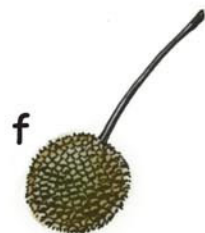
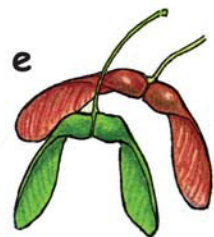
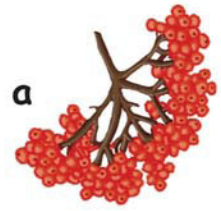
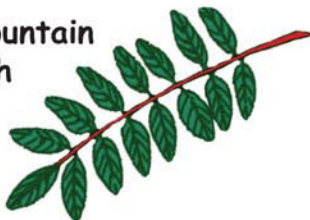
sugar maple



white oak



mountain ash



TREE IDENTIFICATION KEY

Tree has needles use.....use CONIFEROUS TREE KEY

Tree has broad leavesuse DECIDUOUS TREE KEY

CONIFEROUS TREE KEY

1. Needles in bundles or groups (2)

1. Needles single or flattened and scaly (3)

2. Needles in clusters of more than 5 needles.....Tamarack (*Larix laricina*)

2. Needles 2 to 5 per bundle: Pine species (see a-c below)

a. Five needles per bundleWhite Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

b. Needles in pairs, 3 to 4 inches long.....Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*)

c. Needles in pairs, under 2 inches long, bark dark gray..... Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*)

3. Needles scaly and flattened (4)

3. Needles single (5)

4. Has cones, scales flat, branches fan-like.....Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

4. Has berries, may have scaly and prickly needles on same tree, scales rounded..... Eastern Red Cedar
(*Juniperus virginiana*)

5. Needles flat (6)

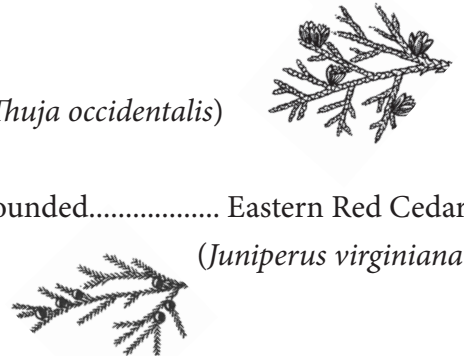
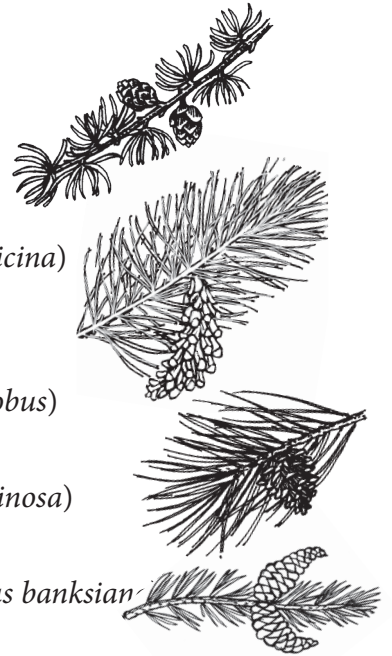
5. Needles square, 4-sided, stiff, sharp: Spruce species (see a-b below)

a. Needles 1/3 to 3/4 inch long, twigs hairless.....White Spruce
(*Picea glauca*)

b. Needles 1/3 to 3/4 inch long, twigs have hair, grows in wet areas....Black Spruce
(*Picea mariana*)

6. Needles 1/2 inch long with short petiole.....Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

6. Needles 3/4 inch to 1 1/4 inches long, no petiole, bubbles in bark.....Balsam Fir
Abies balsamea)



DECIDUOUS TREE KEY

1. Opposite branching (2)
1. Alternate branching (4)
 2. Compound leaves (3)
 2. Simple leaves: Maple species (see a-c below)
 - a. Leaf margins smooth, 5 lobesSugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
 - b. Leaf margins double-toothed, 3 to 5 lobes.....Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
 - c. Leaf margins single-toothed, 3 to 5 lobes, lobes separated by deep, angular openings.....Silver Maple
Acer saccharinum)
3. Three (rarely 5) leaflets.....Box Elder (*Acer negundo*)
3. Five to 11 leaflets: Ash species (see a-c below)
 - a. 9 to 11 leaflets, leaflets do not have petiole.....Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*)
 - b. 5 to 9 leaflets, leaflets have petiole, smile-shaped leaf scar extending up sides of new bud.....White Ash
(*Fraxinus americana*)
 - c. 7 to 9 leaflets, leaflets have petiole, leaf scar ends at base of new bud.....Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)
4. Compound leaves (5)
4. Simple leaves (8)
 5. 7 or fewer (usually 5) leaflets, egg-shaped nut.....Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*)
 5. 7 or more leaflets (6)
 6. Leaflets roundedBlack Locust (*Robinia pseudonacacia*)
 6. Leaflets pointed (7)
 7. Leaf 6 to 8 inches longMountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*)
 7. Leaf 8 to 24 inches long Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*).
 8. Leaves not lobed (9) or Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
 8. Leaves lobed: Oak species (see a-f below)
 - a. Rounded lobes, 5 to 9 deep even lobes and sinuses, leaves hairless.....White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
 - b. Rounded lobes, pair of deep sinuses near middle of leaf, hairy underside of leaves.....Bur Oak
(*Quercus macrocarpa*)
 - c. Rounded lobes, leaf narrow at base and broad near middle, hairy underside of leaves
.....Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
 - d. Pointed lobes, sinues extend halfway to mid-vein, leaves hairless, dull green.....Red Oak
(*Quercus rubra*)
 - e. Pointed lobes, deep sinues extend 3/4 of the way to mid-vein, leaves hairless, bright green and shiny....
Northern Pin Oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*)
 - f. Pointed lobes, deep sinues, young leaves hairy underneath, dark green and shiny, leathery.....Black Oak
Quercus velutina)

9. Bark not papery (10)

9. Bark papery: Birch species (see a-c below)

a. Leaves single-toothed, white peeling bark....Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

b. Leaves double-toothed, dull green leaves, yellow or bronzed bark.....Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*)

c. Leaves double-toothed, shiny green leaves, reddish-brown to silvery-gray bark.....River Birch

Betula nigra)

10. Leaf petioles flat (11)

10. Leaf petiole round (12)

11. Leaf triangular-shaped with coarse teeth.....Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)

11. Leaf oval: Aspen species (see a-b below)

a. Leaves have small, fine teeth less than 1/16 inch.....Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)

b. Leaves have large teeth.....Big-toothed Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)

12. Leaves nearly as wide as long (13)

12. Leaves longer than wide (14)

13. Leaves finely toothedBalsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*)

13. Leaves coarsely toothed.....Basswood (*Tilia americana*)

14. Leaf less than 3 times as long as wide (15)

14. Leaf at least 3 times as long as wide.....Willow species

15. Leaf veins thin and branch often (16)

15. Leaf veins thick and run from center to edge of leaf without branching (17)

16. Fine blunt teeth, leaves 2 to 6 inches long, bark dark.....Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

16. Sharp pointed teeth, leaves 2 to 4 inches long and hairy....Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

17. Leaf shiny and leathery (thick), coarse sharp teeth.....Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

17. Leaf dull and rough (18)

18. Most leaf bases even, rough, reddish, scaled bark.....Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)

18. Most leaf bases even, smooth, muscular, blue-gray bark: Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

18. Leaf base uneven, seeds flat and papery.....Elm species (including American, Rock, and Slippery Elm)

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Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf