

# Activity 64: Looking at Leaves

## Overview

Are leaves ever hairy? Do they have teeth? In this activity, your students will take a closer look at leaves and find out more about leaf characteristics and how leaves can be used to identify trees.

## How to Use This Information

This supplement enhances the information provided in the Background section of this activity. It also replaces the Student Page on page 273. Use this material in addition to the information contained on page 276 of PLT's Pre K-8 Activity Guide.

## Resources

Allan, David N.. *Knowing Your Woods: Wildlife Habitat and Tree Species*, Univ. of NH Cooperative Extension, May 1996 (8 page fact sheet). <http://extension.unh.edu/Forestry/forestry.htm>

Baldwin, Henry I. *Forest Leaves: How To Identify Trees and Shrubs of Northern New England*, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord, NH, 1982.

Stokes, Donald W. *A Guide to Nature in Winter*, Brown and Company, Boston, MA, 1976.

Watts, May Theilgaard. *Tree Finder*, Nature Study Guild, Rochester, NY, 1991.

Petrides, George A. and Janet Wehr. *Peterson Field Guides: Eastern Trees*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1998.

*Wildlife Habitat Activity Kits for New Hampshire*. Durham, NH: UNH Cooperative Extension, 1999. This kit contains an extensive reference library and animal tracks, skins, skulls, and puppets. All or part of the kit may be borrowed from the NH Fish and Game Department in Concord. [www.wildlife.state.nh.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us)

## Correlations to NH Frameworks

Literacy:

Reading Indicators:

Word Identification Skills: 1.1

Vocabulary: 1.1

Written and Oral Communication:

Informational Writing: 1.1

Oral Communications: 1.1

Science:

Life Sciences: LS1.1

Science Process Skills: SPS1.1, SPS4.6

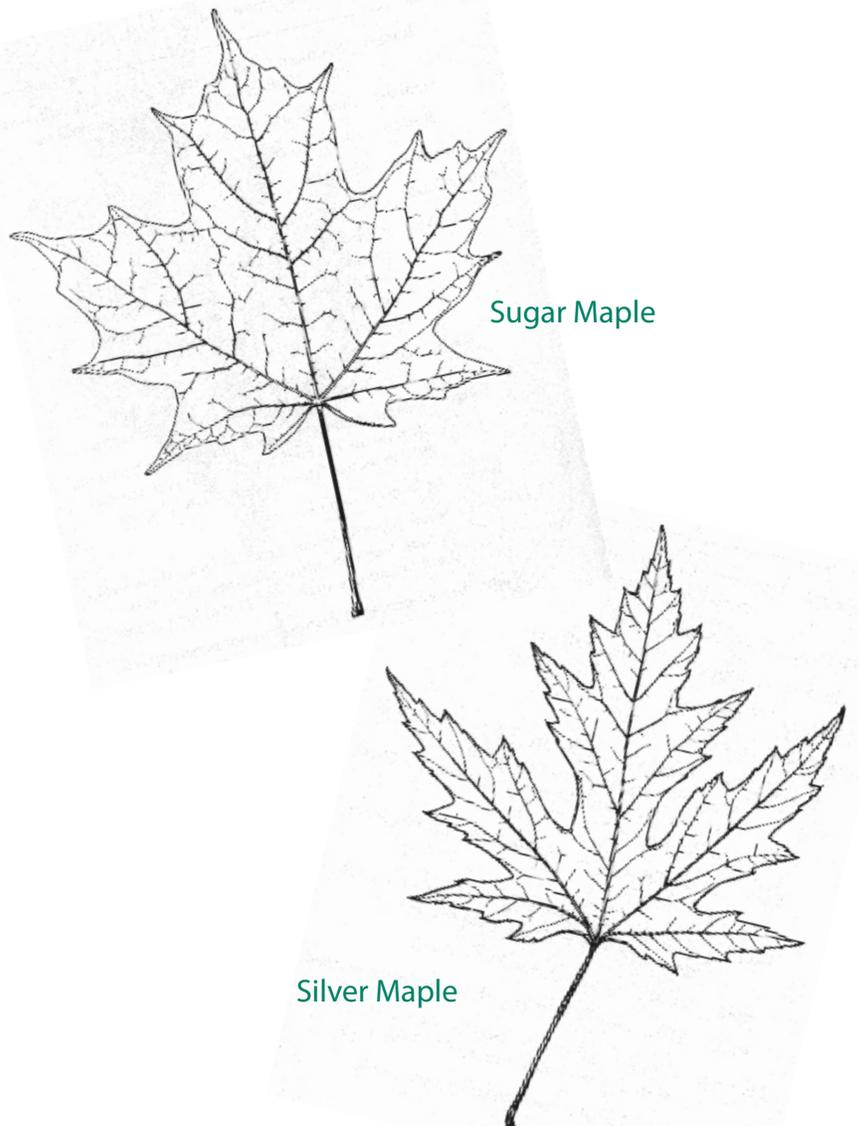
Correlations found at [www.nhplt.org/Correlations.htm](http://www.nhplt.org/Correlations.htm)

## Overall Shape

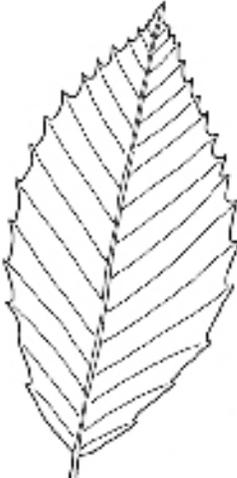
The overall shape of a leaf gives clues to a tree's identity. Many people can identify a tree simply by looking at its leaves. New Hampshire's forests are home to 74 species of trees. Some of these trees have simple leaves. Some have compound leaves. Still others have needle-shaped leaves. For background information on leaf shapes and other characteristics of trees, please refer to "Name That Tree" on page 288 in the PLT Pre K-8 Activity Guide and on page 24 of this supplement.

The following pages provide a closer look at common tree and leaf shapes of native New Hampshire trees. The leaf shapes are emphasized to demonstrate the differences between leaves. Since the trees are not identified on the student page, teachers may use this page with students for activities such as sorting, matching, as a scavenger hunt, or to create a schoolyard field guide. Leaves from both deciduous and evergreen trees are provided. Some leaves, such as red oak and paper birch, show clearer examples of the differences between the leaves of trees. Other leaves, such as silver maple and red maple, show how leaves that look very similar still have subtle differences and these differences help to distinguish trees as separate species.

The student page key is identical to the student page and includes tree names. It may be used as additional background information for teachers.



# Student Page: A Look at New Hampshire Leaves



# Student Page Key: A Look at New Hampshire Leaves

