

Looking At Leaves

Classroom Activity

SYNOPSIS

Students will practice parts of the scientific process by observing and classifying leaves.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- compare and contrast two similar items
- classify similar items into two and three groups

VOCABULARY/CONCEPTS

- observe
- classify

MATERIALS

- leaves (best to have students go outside and collect them from the ground)
- magnifying lens (1/student)
- worksheet (included)

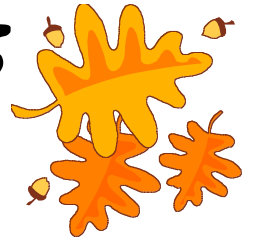
PROCEDURE

1. Explain the scientific process to the students and its role in the work of scientists. Define **observe** and **classify**. Tell the students they will be scientists making observations and classifying leaves.
2. Provide the students with magnifying lenses and have them go outside to gather two leaves each.
3. Provide each student with a worksheet.
4. Have the students make observations of their leaves and complete the worksheet.
5. Working in groups of 3 - 4 students, have them classify their leaves. First tell them to classify the leaves into two groups. Ask them to share how they divided them. Then have them classify the leaves into three groups and share. *(A note on classification: characteristics used to group should be either/or. For instance, the leaves in one group have jagged edges, the others are rounded.)*

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- Provide the students with other objects to classify.
- Have them make observations then classify the objects into three or four groups.

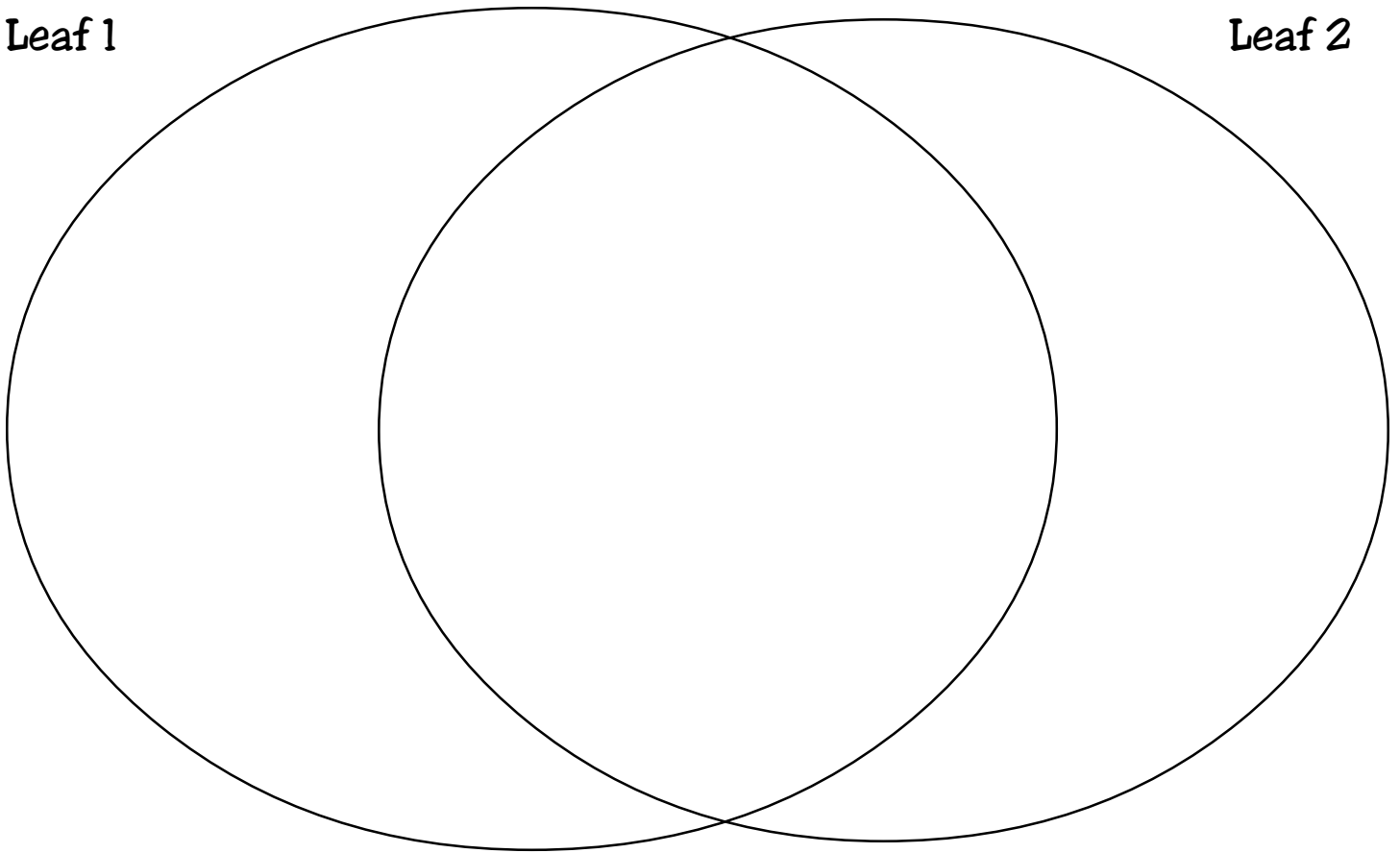
Looking at Leaves



1. With a partner, go outside and choose a plant to observe
2. Use your magnifying lens to look at the leaves on your plant.
3. Choose two leaves and compare them using the Venn diagram below. (Make sure you study the front and back of both leaves!)

Leaf 1

Leaf 2



4. Do the leaves look more the same or different?
5. On the back of this paper, draw the front and back sides of both of your leaves.