Leaf Detective

Procedure

1. Communicate In this activity, you will fill in the diagram below.

2. Observe Examine some leaves using a hand lens. Observe the size, shape, color, and texture of each leaf.

3. Classify First, group the leaves by size. Divide the leaves into two groups, small and large. Write these group names in your diagram. Write one group name in each box below the word Leaves.

4. Classify Work only with the small leaves. Classify the small leaves into two groups based on something other than size. Name each group. Write these group names in your diagram. Write one name in each box below the word Small.
5. Classify  Repeat step 4 to further classify the large leaves.

Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. Collaborate  Compare your diagram with a classmate’s diagram. How are they alike? How are they different?

2. Analyze Data  What is one leaf trait that you used to group the leaves? Did your classmate also use that trait?

Investigate More!

Research  Collect a few tree leaves. Ask a librarian for a field guide book to trees or use a guide on the Internet. Use the field guide to help you find the name of the tree each leaf came from.