

# Activity: Match the Leaf Game

## Learning objectives

- To observe and identify different tree species in the field.
- To encourage pupils to explore different shapes, colours and textures found in the natural world.
- To encourage pupils to remember each tree species.

20  
mins

KS1  
&2

## Teacher Preparation

Site visit, risk assessment and preparation of materials.

## Equipment & Resources

- Identification charts
- Bags for collecting leaves
- Maps of Lagan Valley Regional Park

## Main activity

This is a great game to accompany a nature walk or a tree study.

1. Find a safe area or route for the pupils to use with plenty of native trees.
2. Split the group into small teams of 3 or 4. Give each group a collecting bag and an identification chart.
3. Ask each group to use their tree charts to identify between 6 and 10 trees. Ask them to put a leaf from each tree into their collecting bag.
4. Ask them to study the shape and size of each leaf very carefully as they will need to remember them for the game later.

## The Game

5. This game can be played both indoors and outdoors.
6. Using the leaves that the class collected, place one leaf from each tree in a line at the top of room/field.
7. Get the class to form 2 groups and number the individuals in each group so that there's a number 1, 2, 3.... in each team.
8. Get each team to stand in a line so that the number 1, 2, 3... are beside one another.
9. The aim of the game is that when you call a number and a tree species for example "number 1 oak", both number 1's run from where the team is based to the line of leaves and the first pupil to collect the right leaf wins points for their team.
10. Repeat the exercise until each child has had a chance to play.

**Site visit and risk assessments are essential for this activity. Ensure that the chosen area is free from hazards. Take great care when near water.**