

# Leaf Collection Project Due October 16<sup>th</sup>!

Leaf collecting is a good way to learn about the trees that live in your area. Collecting leaves will also help you to learn how to:

1. Identify individual leaf characteristics.
2. Use different taxonomic keys.

**Assignment:** You are to create a leaf collection booklet containing leaves from **20** different species of trees. Your collection must contain at least 14 leaves from broadleaf trees. You may choose your remaining specimens from broadleaf, needle leaf or scale leaf trees. Only trees considered *Common Trees of North Carolina* are acceptable. Bushes and shrubs are not allowed. (Check the list I gave you earlier in the semester)

## **Materials needed:**

- leaf press (directions follow) Or Glycerin
- sturdy paper for mounting
- black or blue ink pen
- index cards
- glue/tape
- taxonomic keys/field guides
- paper towels/newspaper

## **Directions for making a leaf press**

**(You can use alternate ways of preserving your leaves- glycerin for example)**

1. Cut 1 square of cardboard roughly 15 inches by 15 inches in size.
2. Place the cardboard on a hard surface out of the way of young children and pets. Place five (5) pieces of paper towels or 5 pieces of newspaper on top of the cardboard.
3. Arrange a few of your leaves on the paper towels/newspaper.
4. Cover with 5 additional pieces of paper towels/newspaper.
5. Repeat with an additional layer of leaves and another layer of paper towels/newspaper.
6. Finish with another 15" by 15" cardboard square.
7. Place several heavy books on top of your press.
8. Change the paper towels/newspaper every 2 or 3 days.
9. Depending on the size of your leaves, you may have to construct an additional leaf press.

## **Collecting and Pressing Your Leaves**

1. Always get permission before collecting leaves on someone else's property.
2. Collect at least two of each type of leaf in case one of the leaves tears. If leaves are **damaged or torn, don't use them because you will not receive full credit.**
3. Be sure to remove an entire leaf, not a leaflet, from the tree and place it in your press as soon as possible.
4. Leaves should remain in the press for 3 - 5 days depending on their thickness and moisture content. Remember to change the newspaper or paper towels when needed.

## **Labeling Your Leaves**

1. Make labels that are 3" by 5". You may use index cards or white paper for your labels.

2. You may either type or handprint your information. Do not cross out or white out mistakes on the labels; rewrite them. Labels must be neat and easy to read. Use only black ink whether you are typing or writing your labels.

3. Each label must contain the following information:

- a. Common name of leaf
- b. Scientific name of leaf: Genus (Capitalized) and species (lowercase); name is written in cursive or italicized.
- c. Threats to the tree.
- d. Range of the tree (where it is usually found and why)
- e. Economic uses for this tree
- f. Leaf type: broadleaf, needle leaf, scale leaf, or linear.
- g. If your specimen is from a broadleaf tree, then the following information is also required:

1. Leaf Arrangement: Alternate, Opposite, or Whorled
2. Leaf Structure: Simple, Pinnately Compound, or Palmately Compound
3. Leaf margin: Serrate, Dentate, Double Serrate, Lobed, or Entire

#### **Mounting Your Leaves- BASIC GUIDELINES**

**ALTERNATE WAYS OF DISPLAYING LEAVES WILL BE ACCEPTED if they are more creative!**

1. Use pieces of sturdy white paper to mount your leaves.
2. Each page must have only one type of leaf on it. (unless your alternate presentation is more creative and still neat)
3. Arrange the leaf so there is room to glue the label at the bottom of the page. You may write directly on the paper instead of using notecards. The leaf should look nice on the page. Use tape or contact paper to mount needle- or scale-leaves to the paper.
4. Use a small amount of glue to adhere the completed label. Center the label below the leaf.
5. LET THE PAGES DRY COMPLETELY BEFORE ASSEMBLING THEM TOGETHER IN YOUR COLLECTION OR THE PAGES WILL STICK TOGETHER!!
6. Make a front cover for your collection. Include the following items on your cover:
  - a. title
  - b. your name and your partner's name
  - c. What block you are in and the name of the class

#### **Grading**

Leaf is Correctly Identified	(20)___
Proper Scientific Name	(10)___
One identified threat	(10)___
Range of the species	(10)___
Economic uses for the species	(10)___
Creative display/ presentation	(10)___
Correct leaf type	(5)___
Correct Leaf Arrangement	(5)___
Correct Leaf Structure	(5)___
Correct Leaf Margin	(5)___
Project is Properly or otherwise adequately Assembled (won't fall apart easily)	(10)___