

WISCONSIN LEAF ART

Summer
CONNECTIONS



Wisconsin Tree Identification

On a typical nature walk in Wisconsin, you will run into a variety of trees with different shaped leaves. To identify a tree species, here are some questions to ask yourself:

- Does the tree have thin, flat leaves or does it have needle-like leaves?
- Is it a whole leaf or a leaf broken up into tiny little leaves (leaflets)?
- What are the shapes of the leaves? Does it have lobes (or points)? Is it round? Does it have little “teeth” on the sides?
- If it has needle leaves, are the needles in groups (pine) or do the needles come off the stem in single pieces (spruce)?

COMMON TREES IN WISCONSIN



Sugar Maple (*Our state tree!*)



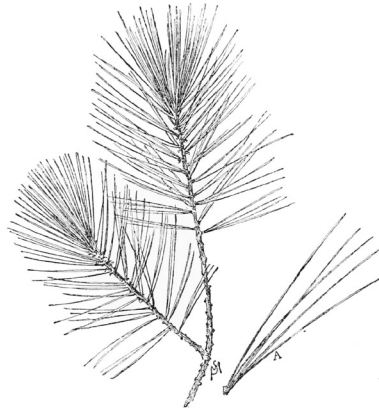
Red Oak



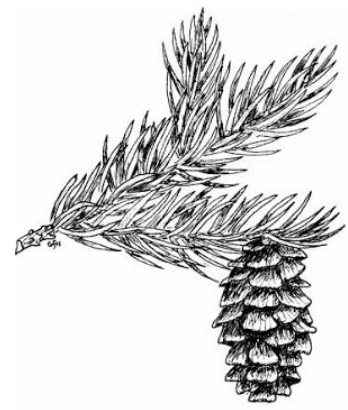
Cottonwood



White Ash



White Pine



White Spruce

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MAKE A LEAF RUBBING!

Once you have an idea of which tree species you are looking at, you may want to preserve the leaves in some way! Leaf rubbings are one way to preserve leaves you may collect on a nature walk and to preserve the memory of being out in nature.

For this activity you will need:



Leaves



Colored pencils or crayons

How to make a leaf rubbing:

1. Head to your backyard or the park and find some fallen leaves to pick up.
2. Lay the leaves underneath this page in the area below.
3. Gently color over the leaves with a colored pencil or crayon.
You will slowly start to see a leaf shape appear!
4. You can rearrange the leaves to make another pattern or use different colored pencils.
Fill up the area with different patterns and colors to make a collage.

Put your leaves underneath here!