

Identifying trees using a key



Outstanding Science Year 6 - Living things and their habitats - OS6A006



Learning Objective

I can identify some common British trees using a classification key.

Me:   

Teacher:  



Features of leaves

One way of identifying trees is by examining the leaves.

Botanists (plant scientists) use technical terms to describe them accurately. Some of these terms are defined below.

Compound leaves

Several leaves grow in a pattern from the end of the twig.

Simple leaves

Only one leaf grows from the end of the twig.

Lobed leaves

The leaves have several parts, or lobes, that stick out from the body of the leaf. Lobed leaves can be **pinnately lobed**, where the lobes stick out on either side along the length of the leaf, or **palmately lobed**, where the lobes project out, like the fingers on a hand.

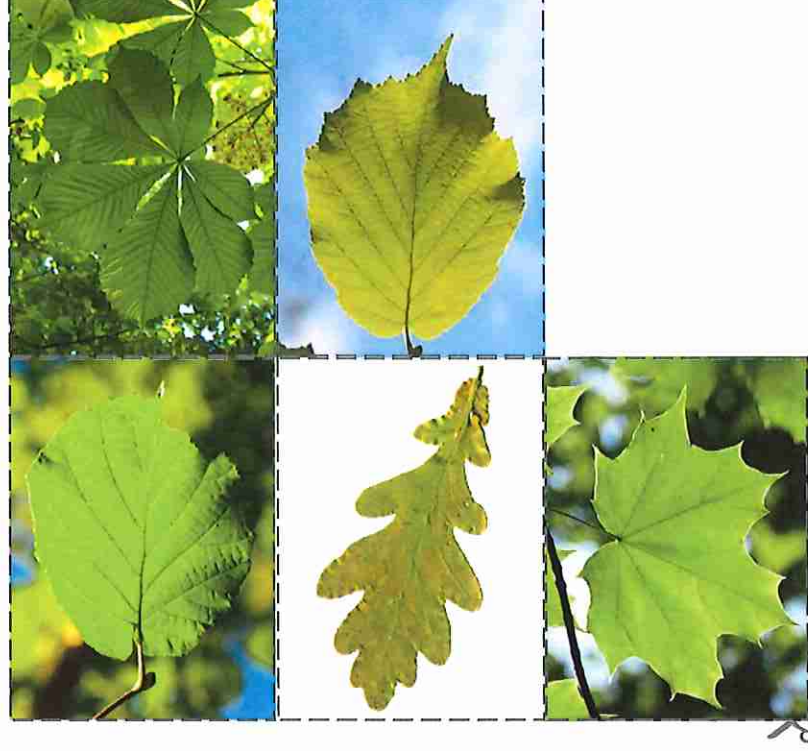


An oak leaf is pinnately lobed.

National Curriculum Statutory Requirements
6A1 - describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals; **6A2** - give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics

Activity

Carefully cut out the pictures of leaves below. Use the classification key on the following page to identify each of the trees.



Discussion

Which trees were the most difficult to identify? Why?

Which trees have you seen in the local area? Can you identify them?

Identifying some British trees from their leaves



Are its leaves compound?

Yes

No

Are its leaves lobed?

Yes

No

Are its leaves pinnately lobed?

Yes

No

Horse chestnut

Oak

Sycamore

Silver Birch

Hazel

