



DALLAS ARBORETUM
Education

Garden STEAM at Home
Book of Leaves: Connections



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.



OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL CREATE A TREE JOURNAL AFTER COLLECTING IN THEIR SCHOOLYARD OR NEIGHBORHOOD.

SOURCE

DickBlick.com

BACKGROUND

Dick Blick's Book of Leaves lesson plan encourages kids to collect, preserve and "publish" a collection of leaves in a book.

This lesson represents an outstanding opportunity to explore a number of science topics, based on the age and grade level of your students. Check out the original lesson in the links below and see our recommendations for ways to align the activity to your classroom standards!

TAKE IT FURTHER

1. Leaf Identification: Students can hone their observation skills by using a dichotomous key to identify leaves. Check out the Texas Tree ID digital dichotomous key linked below.
2. Sort leaves by color, size, texture, shape and more depending on grade level.
3. Collect leaves in deep shade vs. full sun and explore any variation that you see. What could explain this difference?
4. Challenge students to document the life cycle of a leaf.
5. Explore human impact on the environment by comparing tree leaves found in different areas. Do urban plantings vary based on location or age of the neighborhood?

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Dick Blick Book of Leaves Lesson Plan:

<https://assets.ctfassets.net/f1fikihmjtrp/6sESCwpR8onlAK2lfFLkAe/5a795764c7aa8633fb98af9ce4a4a5d0/book-of-leaves-leaves.pdf>

Texas Forest Service Tree ID Website:

<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/content/idByLeaf/>

ArtNet Andy Goldsworthy Profile:

<http://www.artnet.com/artists/andy-goldsworthy/>