



Nature Quote:
Dr. Nalini Nadkarni,
 Ecologist, Canopy Researcher

"It's not an easy thing to be a forest ecologist, gripping ourselves with questions and trying to figure out how we can answer them. Especially as a small brown woman at a little college in the upper northwest corner of our country, far away from the areas of power and money, I really have to ask myself: What can I do? How can I reconnect people with trees?"

The activities in this journal can be done on almost any quiet patch of earth in our area.



WESTERN FOOTHILLS LAND TRUST



Land Trusts are member driven non-profits working for you in our communities. Please consider supporting these organizations.

Activity: Make a Leaf Rubbing

Leaf rubbings are a fun way to record the texture and shape of the leaves you identify.

Materials:
 Paper, crayons or pencil, and a hard surface

1. Find a good leaf to rub. Look at the texture & features on the leaf. Are there holes on it? Has it dropped on the ground recently or has it been on the ground for some time?

2. Place the leaf on a hard surface. Place the leaf "veins" face up.

3. Put a white sheet of paper on the leaf & color over the leaf with the side of the crayon or pencil.

4. Repeat with other leaves & colors. Use soft and hard leaves to compare how drawings come out.

*Try to find & make a rubbing of an Oak, Birch and Maple leaf.

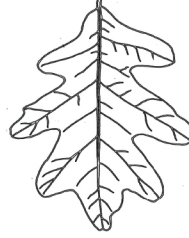
POCKET
Nature Journal
 Leaf-Out Tree ID

Red Maple

Striped Maple

Sugar Maple

Field Notes:



Oak
 Quercus family, pinnately lobed, deeply indented margins, alternate

Identify Trees by Leaves

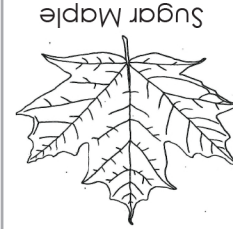
Leaves come in all different shapes. Take a look around to see how many you can find.

Leaf-Out Vocabulary

- Simple leaf:** Not divided into leaflets.
- Ovate:** Egg-shaped where the broadest point is below the middle of the leaf.
- Palmately lobed:** Lobes spread from the stem like fingers on a hand.
- Pinnately lobed:** Cut into lobes, but not cut right to the middle of the leaf.
- Opposite:** Leaves are arranged directly across from one another on a twig.
- Alternate:** Leaves are not opposite on twig.

* Record what you find in the field notes section of each page.

Field Notes:



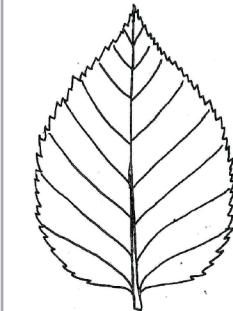
Maple
 Acer family, palmately lobed, fan-like, 3 - 5 lobes, opposite



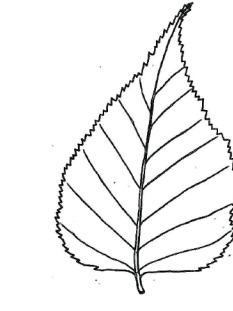
Maple
 Acer family, palmately lobed, fan-like, 3 - 5 lobes, opposite

Birch

Betula family, ovate, tapering point, double-toothed, alternate



Paper Birch



Grey Birch

Field Notes: