

LEAF SHAPE BINGO

Tree ID Grades: K-8

Overview: (communicated by teacher)

Leaves come in many shapes and sizes—tall and skinny, wide and round, or even like triangles and umbrellas! These different shapes help trees collect sunlight, grow strong, and provide homes for animals. Knowing different leaf shapes can be helpful for tree identification. Take a nature walk around your school and look carefully at the different shapes of the tree leaves. Can you find one of each shape? Play Tree Shape Bingo and see what you discover!

Method:

1. *Distribute Bingo Cards:* Hand out Bingo cards to individual students or teams of 2-3 students. Each card should feature tree characteristics. Provide pencils or markers for marking squares.
2. *Explain the Rules:* Students must stay within the designated area to search for tree characteristics. To get a bingo, they need to complete a line of squares horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Once they find a match, they should mark it on their card.
3. *Begin the Activity:* Allow students to explore the area, observing trees to find the characteristics that match their cards. Encourage them to discuss and collaborate if working in teams.
4. *Announce Winners:* When students call out “Bingo!” check their cards to confirm. Once a few winners have been declared, challenge the class to try for *blackout bingo* (filling every square on their card).
5. *Wrap Up and Reflect:* Gather students together after the game. Discuss what they observed and learned about the trees in their environment. Celebrate their achievements and highlight the importance of careful observation and teamwork.

At a glance

Skills:

Critical Thinking
Discussion
Urban Forestry

Lesson Delivery:

(Best/Suggested method in bold)

- Whole group
- Small group
- **Independent work**

Location:

(Best/Suggested location in bold)

- **Outdoor**
- Indoors

Materials:

Necessary

- Paper
- Colored Pencils
- Table/writing surface

Optional

- Highlighter
- Sticky notes
- Bingo markers

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Modifications & Extensions

K-2*

Modification: Use Picture-Based Bingo Cards

Create a simplified Bingo card with large, easy-to-identify images (e.g., squirrel in a tree, falling leaf, shade from a tree, fruit growing, bird nest, someone sitting under a tree). Allow students to color in or place stickers on what they spot during the walk.

3-5*

Modification: Use a Scavenger Hunt Style Bingo

Instead of just marking off boxes, encourage students to jot down a quick note or sketch in each square. For example, "Shade – big oak by the playground" or "Bird – saw a cardinal in a pine tree." This builds observation and recording skills.

6-8*

Modification: Add Cause & Effect Notes to Each Bingo Find

For each item they check off, have students add a cause-and-effect note (e.g., "Tree roots help the soil → fewer floods" or "Leaves provide shade → lower surface temps"). This encourages systems thinking and real-world connections.

Extension: "What Did You See?" Tree Walk Journal

After the walk, give students a half-page journal template to draw their favorite thing they saw and write (or dictate) one sentence: "I saw a tree that helped by..."

Extension: Tree Benefits Wrap-Up Poster

Back in the classroom, have students pick one benefit from their Bingo sheet (e.g., "trees provide homes for animals") and make a mini-poster explaining how that benefit works and why it matters, including a drawing or real-life example from their walk.

Extension: Design a Tree Benefits Infographic

After the walk, challenge students to turn their findings into a visual infographic titled "How Trees Improve Our Campus." They can use facts from their Bingo observations and incorporate custom drawings or digital design tools.

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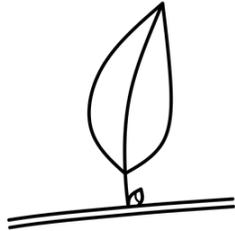
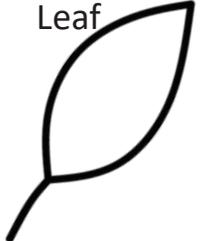
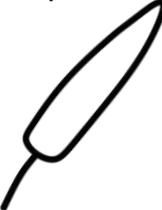
ELAR and Science TEKS Alignment

Module	Lesson	Science TEKS Alignment
1: Tree ID	2.2 Leaf Shape Bingo	K.1A, K.5A, K.9A, K.10A, K.12A 1.1A, 1.5A, 1.9A, 1.10A, 2.1A, 2.5A, 2.9A, 2.10A 3.1A, 3.5A, 3.9A 4.1A, 4.5A, 4.10A 5.1A, 5.5A, 6.1A, 6.5A, 6.12A 7.1A, 7.5A 8.1A, 8.5A
		ELAR TEKS Alignment
1: Tree ID	2.2 Leaf Shape Bingo	K.1A, K.2A, K.5A 1.1A, 1.2A 2.1A, 2.2A 3.1A, 3.2A, 3.5A 4.1A, 4.2A 5.1A, 5.2A 6.1A, 6.2A 7.1A, 7.2A 8.1A, 8.2A

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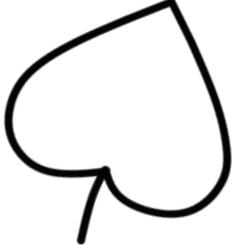
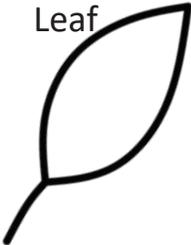
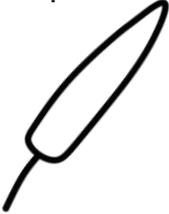
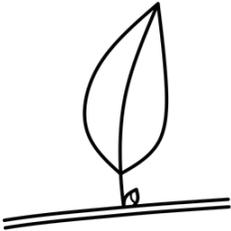
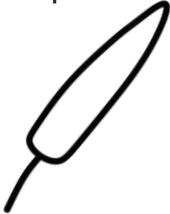
Notice how plants have different shapes and arrangements of leaves. How many of these leaves can you find on campus?

<p>Alternate Arrangement Leaf</p> 	<p>Simple Leaf</p> 	<p>Compound Leaf</p> 	<p>Ovate Shaped Leaf</p> 
<p>Whorled Arrangement Leaf</p> 	<p>Serrate Margin Leaf</p> 	<p>Lobed Margin Leaf</p> 	<p>Elliptic Shaped Leaf</p> 
<p>Cordate Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Lanceolate Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Oblong Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Serrate Margin Leaf</p> 
<p>Broadleaf Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Needle Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Compound Leaf</p> 	<p>Free Space</p>

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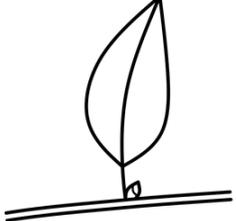
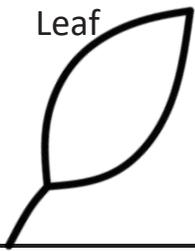
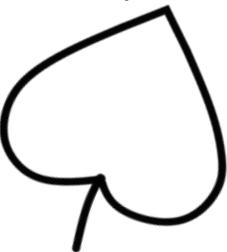
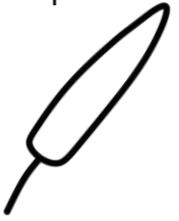
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<p>Free Space</p>	<p>Oblong Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Alternate Arrangement Leaf</p> 	<p>Needle Shaped Leaf</p> 
<p>Lobed Margin Leaf</p> 	<p>Needle Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Ovate Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Cordate Shaped Leaf</p> 
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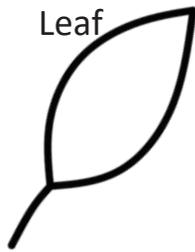
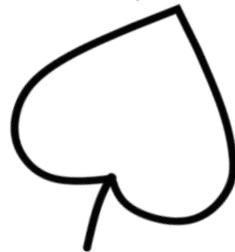
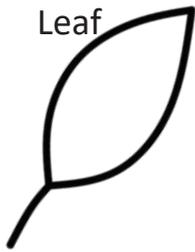
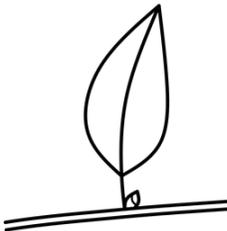
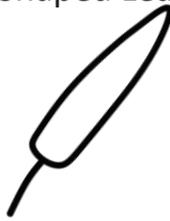
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<p>Whorled Arrangement Leaf</p> 	<p>Needle Shaped Leaf</p> 	<p>Simple Leaf</p> 	<p>Broadleaf Shaped Leaf</p> 
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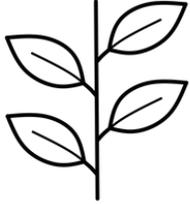
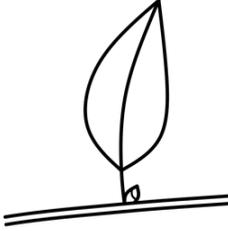
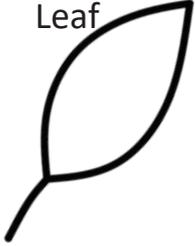
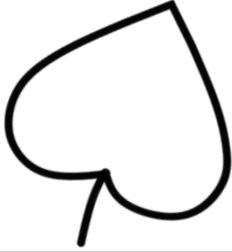
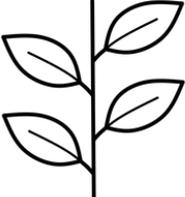
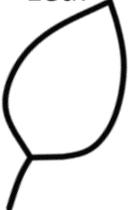
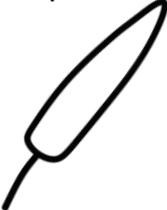
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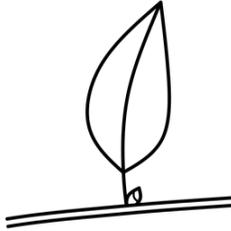
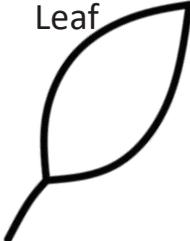
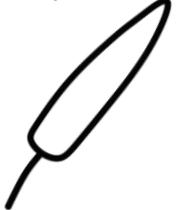
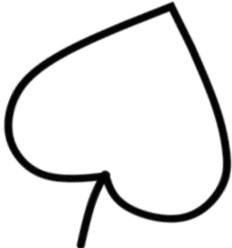
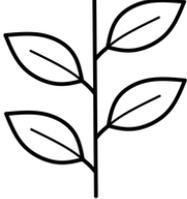
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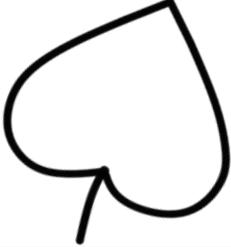
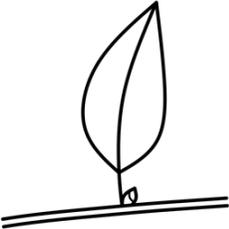
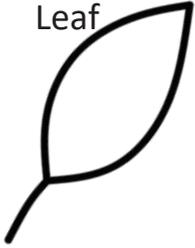
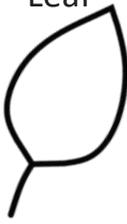
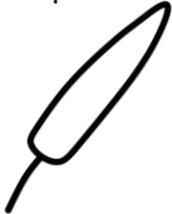
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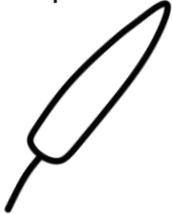
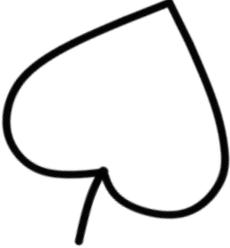
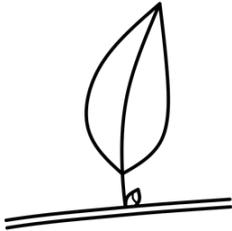
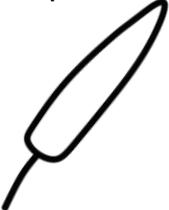
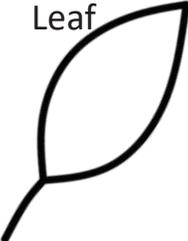
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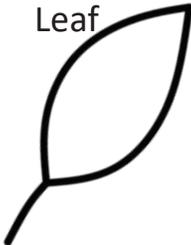
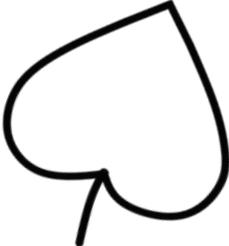
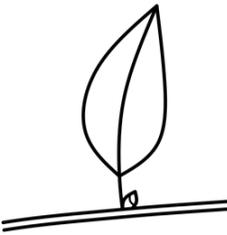
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