

TREE ID 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 trees 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.
 - a. Note: these cards can be used as a scavenger hunt rather than a bingo game if desired.
2. *Explain the Rules:* Students must stay within the designated area to search for leaf shapes. 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 leaf shapes 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.
 - a. Note: please ask students to not pick leaves off of trees!

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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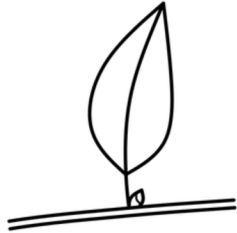
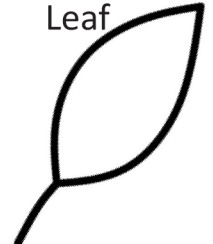
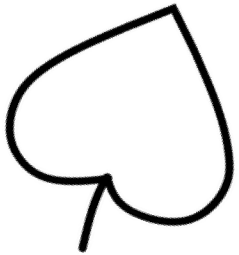
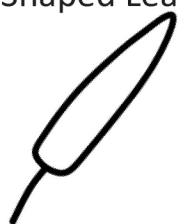
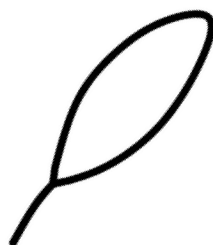
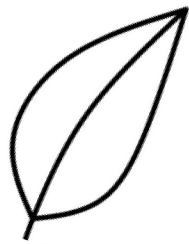
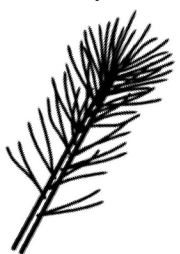
List of Trees to be included

Bur Oak,
Live Oak,
Mexican White Oak,
Pecan,
Mexican Sycamore,
Montezuma Bald Cypress,
Cedar Elm,
Honey Mesquite,
Desert Willow,
Mexican Olive,
Texas Ebony,
Anacua

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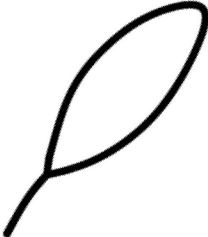
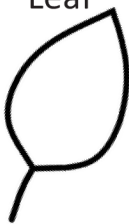
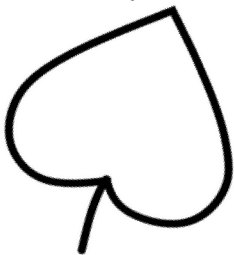
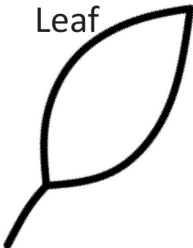
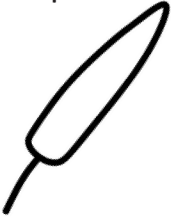
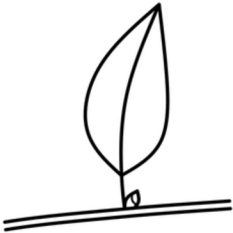
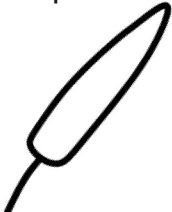
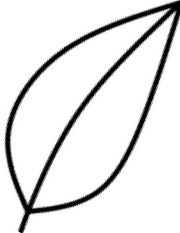
Notice how plants have different shapes and arrangements of leaves. How many of these leaves can you find on campus?

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

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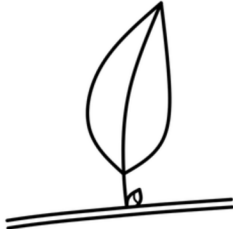
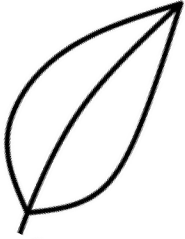
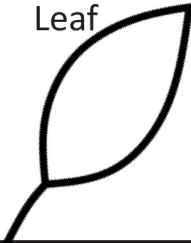
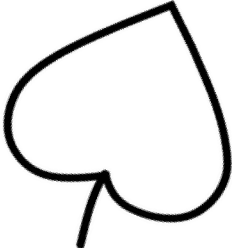
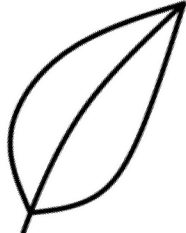
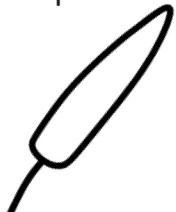
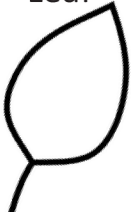
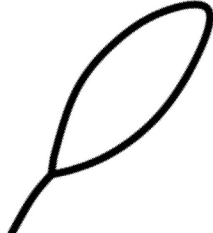
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Free Space	Oblong Shaped Leaf 	Alternate Arrangement Leaf 	Needle Shaped Leaf 
Lobed Margin Leaf 	Needle Shaped Leaf 	Ovate Shaped Leaf 	Cordate Shaped Leaf 
Elliptic Shaped Leaf 	Lanceolate Shaped Leaf 	Whorled Arrangement Leaf 	Simple Leaf 
Lanceolate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

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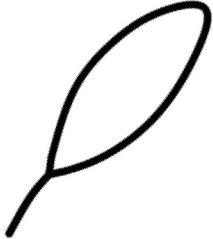
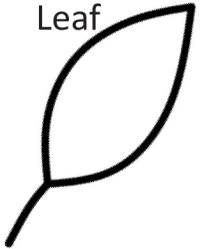
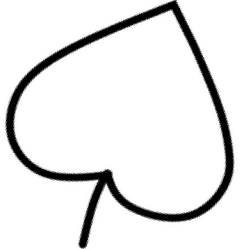
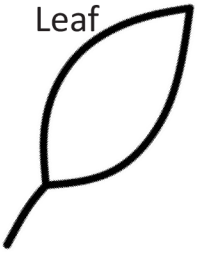
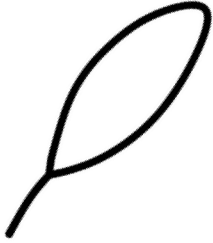
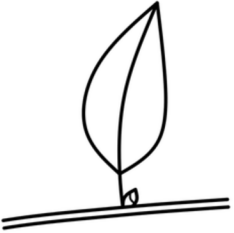
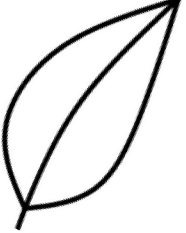
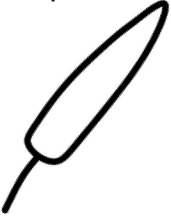
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Whorled Arrangement Leaf 	Needle Shaped Leaf 	Simple Leaf 	Broadleaf Shaped Leaf 
Elliptic Shaped Leaf 	Whorled Arrangement Leaf 	Serrate Margin Leaf 	Lobed Margin Leaf 
Cordate Shaped Leaf 	Compound Leaf 	Broadleaf Shaped Leaf 	Lanceolate Shaped Leaf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

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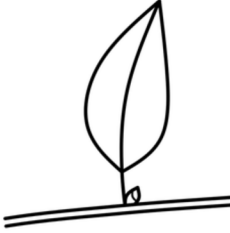
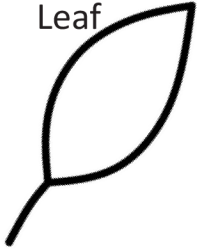
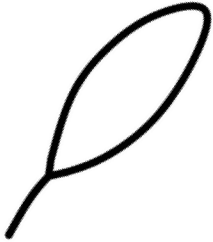
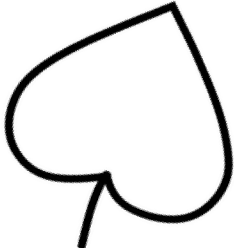
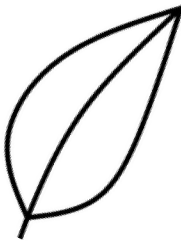
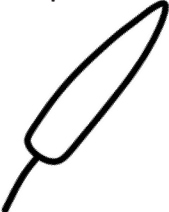
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Compound Leaf 	Oblong Shaped Leaf 	Alternate Arrangement Leaf 	Elliptic Shaped Leaf 
Lobed Margin Leaf 	Serrate Margin Leaf 	Ovate Shaped Leaf 	Cordate Shaped Leaf 
Elliptic Shaped Leaf 	Oblong Shaped Leaf 	Free Space	Simple Leaf 
Broadleaf Shaped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

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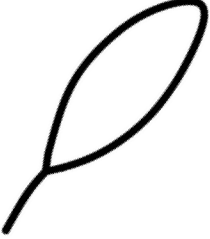
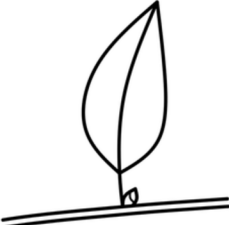
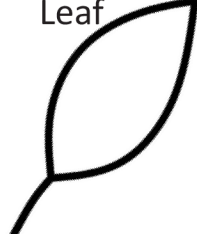
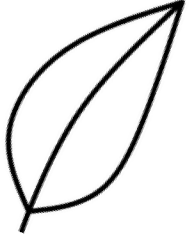
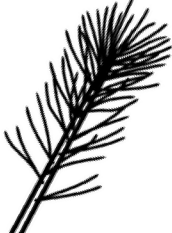
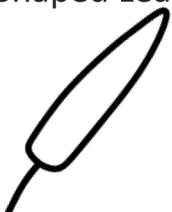
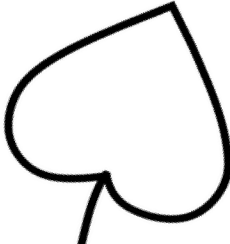
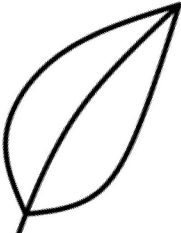
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Alternate Arrangement Leaf 	Lobed Margin Leaf 	Simple Leaf 	Free Space
Elliptic Shaped Leaf 	Oblong Shaped Leaf 	Serrate Margin Leaf 	Cordate Shaped Leaf 
Lobed Margin Leaf 	Whorled Arrangement Leaf 	Alternate Arrangement Leaf 	Broadleaf Shaped Leaf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

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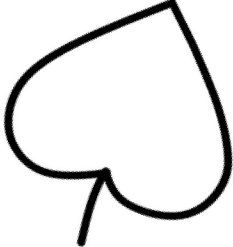
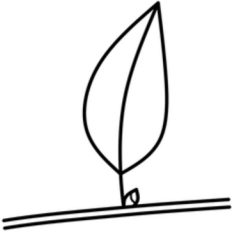
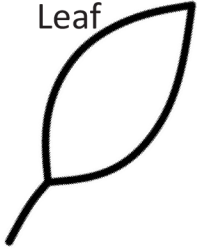
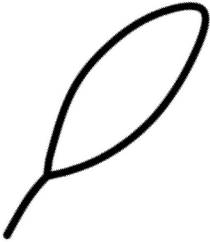
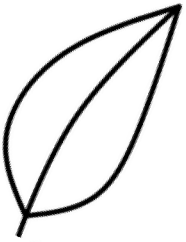
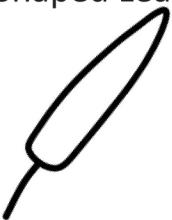
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Oblong Shaped Leaf 	Lobed Margin Leaf 	Simple Leaf 	Ovate Shaped Leaf 
Whorled Arrangement Leaf 	Compound Leaf 	Elliptic Shaped Leaf 	Broadleaf Shaped Leaf 
Needle Shaped Leaf 	Free Space	Serrate Margin Leaf 	Lanceolate Shaped Leaf 
Cordate Shaped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

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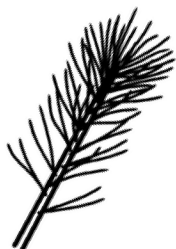
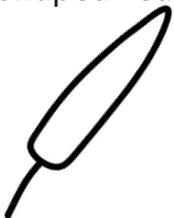
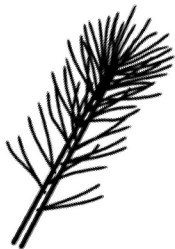
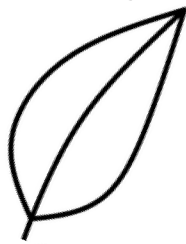
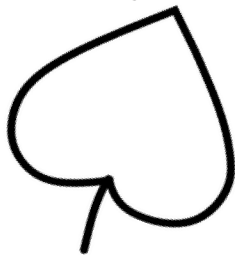
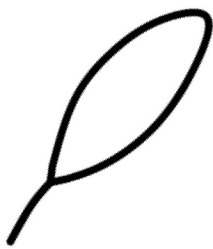
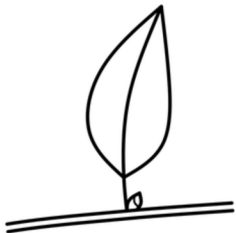
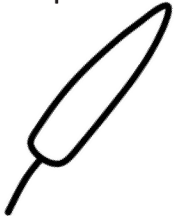
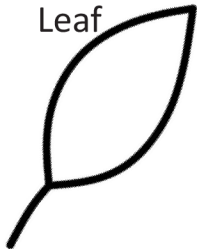
Notice how plants have different shapes and arrangements of leaves. How many of these leaves can you find on campus?

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

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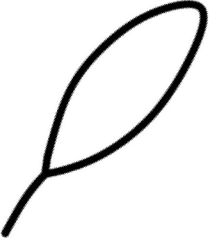
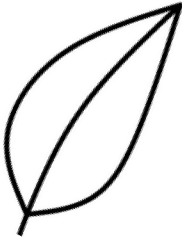
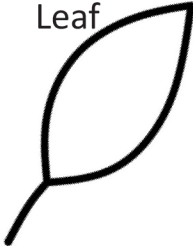
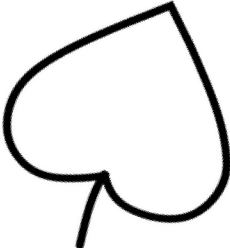
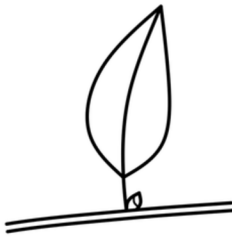
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Needle Shaped Leaf 	Ovate Shaped Leaf 	Lanceolate Shaped Leaf 	Needle Shaped Leaf 
Broadleaf Shaped Leaf 	Cordate Shaped Leaf 	Oblong Shaped Leaf 	Alternate Arrangement Leaf 
Lobed Margin Leaf 	Compound Leaf 	Simple Leaf 	Free Space
Whorled Arrangement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

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Tree ID Grades: K-8

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

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