

Title of Lesson Plan	Identifying Wyoming Trees (Yes we have trees)
Prepared By	Phil Orbell
City and State	Riverton, Wyoming
Grade Level(s)	6-8
Keywords (subjects covered)	Pinnate veins, palmate veins, parallel veins, toothed shape, lobed shape, jagged shape, opposite, alternating, simple, compound, needle, scale, bud, leaf, leaflet (they need these terms to use the Tree Finder booklet)
Brief Description	I give my students a background of tree leaf shapes, veination, and structure (alternate vs. opposite). Together we use our Rocky Mountain Tree finders and practice going through the key. (I make the kids write down every step and number each step.) When we are ready we all go out the park or in bad weather I'll bring in leaves, and identify 5 different trees. (Make sure you find good examples of each tree. Sometimes the immature leaves will lead kids to the wrong answer.)
Total Time Required	100 minutes (2 class periods) for the background 100 minutes (2 class periods) for the lab and assessment
Setting	Classroom and/or park
Lesson Objectives/Goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Students will identify leaf characteristics 2) Students will classify leaves using a dichotomous key
Materials Needed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>The Rocky Mountain Tree Finder</i> by Tom Watts (Nature Study Guild) 2) Tree Leaves
Standards Addressed	Wyoming Science Standard, Concepts and Processes 1.4 Diversity of Organisms Wyoming Science Standard, Science as Inquiry 2.1
Procedure	I tie a number to 5 trees in our park then take my students over in groups of 2. Each tree gets 2-3 groups of students who go through the Tree Finder and identify. We switch trees every 5 minutes and when were done head back to the classroom. I go over each tree 1-5 and discuss ways mistakes could have been made. The second class period I usually bring in the leaves and they work individually to identify the 3 different unknown trees.
Assessment	Students identify 3 unknown trees (classroom or outside)
Literature Cited/References	The Rocky Mountain Tree Finder
Forestry Tour Attended	Pacific Northwest 2008

- The Temperate Forest Foundation reserves the right to modify, revise, and reformat lesson plans for quality and appropriateness.
- Lesson plans submitted to us may be hosted on our web site: www.forestinfo.org and may be shared with other teachers across the nation.
- Lesson plans are for individual classroom and educational use only. We reserve the right to publish lesson plans and lesson plan summaries on any of the Temperate Forest Foundation's publications (emails, newsletters, etc.).