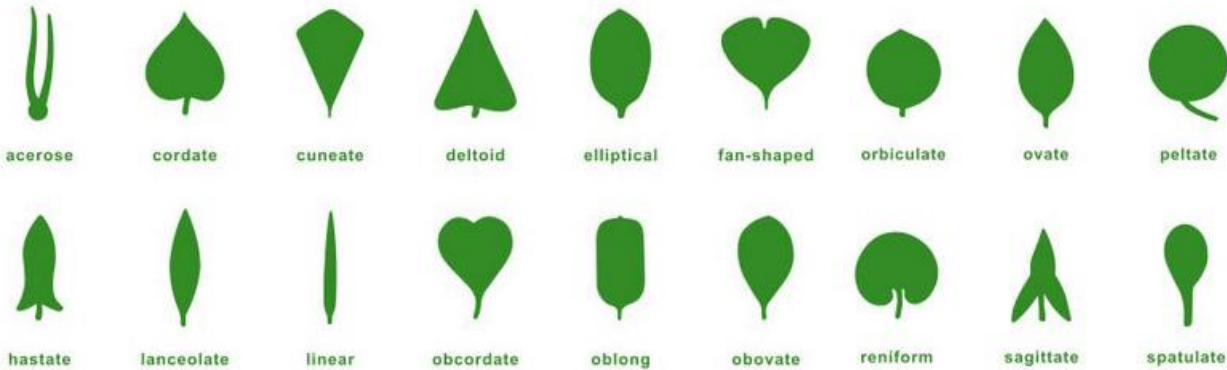




Alabama Outdoor Classroom BioBlitz Observation Sheet

Taxonomy Tips & Terminology

Example Shapes of Leaves



Specimen – an individual animal, plant, or fungus that can be used as an example of its species for scientific study.

Tree – a woody perennial plant, typically having a single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.

Shrub – a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems arising at or near the ground.

Vine – a climbing or trailing woody-stemmed plant.

Algae – a simple nonflowering plant that have chlorophyll but lack stems, roots, leaves and vascular tissue.

Moss – a small nonflowering green plant that lacks true roots, growing in low carpets in shaded, damp habitats and reproducing by means of spores released from stalked capsules.

Fern – a nonflowering plant with a vascular system that has feathery or leafy fronds divided into many leaflets and that reproduces by spores released from the undersides of the fronds.

Grass – a short flowering plant that has a long, narrow leaf and parallel veins.

Forb – a broad-leaved, herbaceous flowering plant with branching veins.

Lichen – a simple slow-growing organism that typically forms a low crust-like, leaf-like, or branching growth on rocks, walls, and trees that is composed of a fungus and algae.

Mushroom – a fungus that typically takes the form of a domed cap on a stalk, often with gills on the underside of the cap where spores are released for reproduction.

Amphibian – a cold-blooded vertebrate animal with moist skin that have an aquatic gill-breathing larval stage followed (typically) by a terrestrial lung-breathing adult stage, including frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders.

Bird – a warm-blooded egg-laying vertebrate with feathers, wings, and a beak.

Fish – a limbless cold-blooded vertebrate animal with gills and fins, often covered in scales, living wholly in water.

Mammal – a warm-blooded vertebrate animal of a class that is distinguished by the possession of hair or fur, the secretion of milk by females for the nourishment of the young, and (typically) the birth of live young.

Reptile – a cold-blooded vertebrate animal with dry scaly skin that typically lays soft-shelled eggs on land, including snakes, lizards, crocodiles, turtles, and tortoises.

Insect – a small arthropod animal that has six legs, one or two pairs of wings, with a well-defined head, thorax, and abdomen.