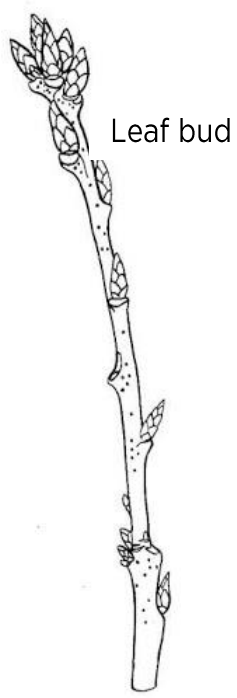
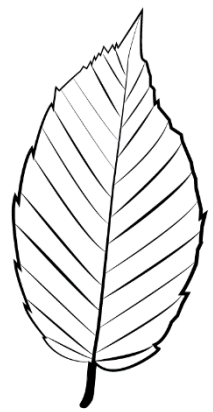


Seasonal Change Science

Scientists study the changes of the seasons by measuring when plants and animals complete different parts of their life cycle. We call the science of the seasons **phenology**. Flower blooms, bird migrations, and leaf color changes are all examples of phenological events. In this activity, you are going to “adopt” different plants in your neighborhood and learn about their seasonal changes.



Walk around your neighborhood and find 3-5 plants that you would like to study. Record which plants you are going to study and draw a picture of them in your journal. Then, copy the table below into your journal. If you know the name of the plant, write it into the table.



Once a week, visit your plants and record your observations.

While you are observing the plant, think about these questions:

- Are there leaves on the plant? Have any of them fallen? Can you estimate how many of the leaves have fallen (ex. about half, two-thirds, etc.)?
- What color are the leaves on the plant? Have they changed color? Are all of them changing color or only some of them?
- Have any new buds formed? Are the buds starting to open?
- Have any flowers bloomed? Have any fruits started to develop?

Date	Phenological Observations			
	Plant 1:	Plant 2:	Plant 3:	Plant 4:

*add more rows for each week of observations!

After a few weeks of observing your plants, answer these questions:

What did you notice? Did the plants change at the same time? Did the location of the plants make a difference? Did the kind of plant make a difference? Compare and contrast your observations of your plants in your journal.

Additional Activity: Leaf Rubbing

Challenge: See how many textures you can find by creating rubbings of different leaves.

Guiding Question: How many textures can you find? Which leaves produce the best rubbings?

- Collect an assortment of different kinds of leaves from around your neighborhood.
- On a flat surface, place your leaves with a piece of paper on top. Using a crayon or a pencil, lightly shade on top of the leaves with your crayon or pencil at a low angle from the table top.
- Watch as the texture of your leaf appears on your paper!