

Whitney's Guide To Leaf Collecting



Collecting leaves is a great way to learn about how to identify trees around where you live. It will also give you clues as to the type of animals that might live there! I am going to give you some ideas about how you can develop your own collection.

- If you want to create a collection that you will keep in a book, it is best to look for leaves in late summer or fall. In the fall leaves will sometimes turn colors; adding different colored leaves to your collection can make a very nice book.
- Start by looking at trees in your own backyard to begin your collection. If you are going to take leaves from other trees in your neighborhood, always ask permission before taking them from other people's trees.
- Be aware of thorns, and poison ivy (which can cause you to itch, and should be avoided). If you do not know what poison ivy looks like, you might want to look it up first. A good rule to follow is *leaves of three, let it be*.
- When you are collecting leaves, you can store them by pressing them in between stacks of old newspapers or in a phone book. Stacking another book on top will help to keep the leaves in place.
- Let the leaf dry for about a week or so, then you can decide how you want to arrange them (whether it be in a book or on a poster, etc).
- You can glue your leaf with a few drops of glue around the edges, or you can seal it by getting clear contact paper to press around it. (If you don't know what contact paper is, ask a grown-up). When you label your leaf, you should describe where you found it, not just what you have learned about it by looking it up, etc.
- If you want to give it an "official" leaf collector's look, you can create an identification tag for your leaf that includes the common name, the scientific name, that date you collected it, the location where you found it, a description of it and the name of the collector.



Swamp White Oak
Quercus bicolor

Collected Nov. 15
Deep green color with
5-6 tips on either side.
Found in my backyard
Whitney Wheat