

Observations: Leaf Variation

Choose six leaves from the pile. All six are from the same species of tree.

On a large piece of paper trace each leaf. Then label the leaves with width, length, area (use the clear graph paper), and other general observations about what makes each leaf similar and different.

Finally answer the following questions on the sheet of paper:

1. Are all the leaves the same size? Describe any differences.
2. In what other ways are the leaves all the same?
3. In what other ways are the leaves all different?
4. All the leaves come from the same type of tree. Do you think they should all be very much alike or very much different?
5. Write a paragraph comparing variation in tree leaves to variation in humans. How are humans the same? How are humans different? Is variation more extreme in humans or trees?

