



What secrets are hiding in a leaf?

Leaves aren't just green blobs. They're full of lines, bumps and patterns that tell stories about the plant they came from. In this hands-on mini investigation, young learners become nature detectives, using **Hand Magnifiers** and **Plant Kingdom Slides** to zoom in and decode the hidden world of plants.

Curriculum Links

Foundation - Year 2 (v9):

AC9SFU01

Living things have external features

AC9SFU02

Living things live in different places

AC9SFI01

Pose questions and make observations using familiar tools

Activity Idea:

Tiny Leaves, Big Clues

Theme link: Decoding patterns in nature

You'll need:

- ☐ Hand Magnifiers - Pack of 12
- ☐ Plant Kingdom Slides
- ☐ Printed template for leaf comparison or drawing paper
- ☐ **Optional:** camera/tablet to take zoomed-in leaf photos dappled sunlight filtering through the canopy above.

- 1 Take students outside to collect different leaves.
- 2 Use **hand magnifiers** to spot textures, colours, veins and shapes.
- 3 Back in the classroom, use the **Plant Kingdom Slides** with a viewer or microscope to explore leaves up close.
- 4 Ask: What's different? What's the same? What might the patterns mean?
- 5 Create a class poster called "What Leaves Can Tell Us" with drawings or photos.

Extend

Look at leaves from different parts of the school yard. Do sun-exposed leaves look different to shady ones?

Tiny Leaves, Big Clues Observation Sheet

Use your magnifier to look closely at the leaf you found. What can you see? Draw what it looks like and write down what you notice. Then compare it with a leaf from a different plant!

Leaf 1

Where did you find this leaf?
(e.g. playground, garden):

What colour is it?

Does it have lines or veins?
Circle one:

Yes No

Is it smooth or bumpy?
Tick one:

Smooth Bumpy

Draw your leaf below:

Leaf 2

Where did you find this leaf?
(e.g. playground, garden):

What colour is it?

Does it have lines or veins?
Circle one:

Yes No

Is it smooth or bumpy?
Tick one:

Smooth Bumpy

Draw your leaf below:

What did you discover?

How were the two
leaves the same?

How were they different?

What do you think the lines
and patterns on a leaf help
it do?