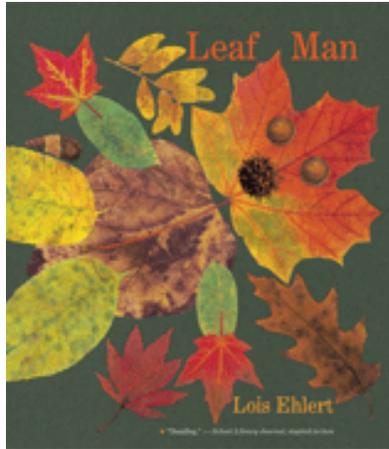


TEACHER GUIDE FOR LEAF MAN BY LOIS EHLERT



Preparing to Read

- Show the students the front and back cover of the book.
- Ask the students if they have ever seen or heard of a leaf man. What do they think a leaf man is?
- Discuss the different types of leaves that are on the book jacket. Possible questions to ask:
Do any of the leaves look familiar?
Have you seen leaves at school or in your neighborhood that look like the ones on the cover?

While Reading

- Ask the students, as they look at the illustrations, to name the different animals and shapes they see throughout the story.
- Have the students predict where Leaf Man will go next. Ask them why the author writes: "Where a Leaf Man will land, only the wind knows."

After Reading

- Make a list of all the animals and shapes the students observed in the story. Flip back through the pages of the book to help them remember.

Explore

- Take the students on a walk around the school to collect leaves. Encourage them to bring leaves from around their home or neighborhood as well. Keep each child's leaves in an envelope marked with his or her name to use in the projects below. If possible, start leaf projects on the same day the leaves are collected, while the leaves are soft and colorful.

Create Your own Leaf Man!

Materials needed for each student: large piece of construction paper, glue or brads.

- Tell the students they are going to make their own leaf person or leaf animal!
- Pass out each child's envelope of leaves along with a large piece of construction paper.
- Tell the students to arrange the leaves in the shape of a leaf person or leaf animal.
- Have the students use glue or brads to connect their leaves.

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Leaf Place Mats

Materials needed for each student: four sheets of place mat-sized waxed paper, scissors, leaves, large books for pressing the leaves, iron, paper sacks

- Have each student place selected leaves between two sheets of waxed paper.
- Place the leaves inside a large book to flatten them-this may take one day to one week.
- After the leaves are flattened, take them out of the book and remove the waxed paper.
- Cut the paper sack in half. Cut out the bottom of each half of the sack and discard. Place one piece of the paper sack on a surface that is safe to iron on.
- Preheat your iron to a medium setting (no steam).
- Place one sheet of waxed paper on the sack.
- Have the students arrange their leaves on the waxed paper.
- Place the second sheet of waxed paper on top of the leaves.
- Place the second piece of paper sack on top of the waxed paper.
- Iron on the sack. Make sure the waxed paper has adhered.
- Let the place mat cool.
- Trim the edges with decorative scissors, if desired.

Writing

- Have each student write his or her own leaf person or leaf animal adventure. Possible questions to ask: Where would your leaf person's adventure begin? What would he or she see along the journey?
- Have the children illustrate their books using the leaves they have collected or by drawing their own leaves.

Science/Math

- Have each student choose a leaf from his or her collection to investigate.
- Tell the students to draw the leaf on a piece of paper, paying close attention to the veins of the leaf. Point out that the veins are the circulatory system of the plant, much like the veins in our own body that can be seen on the backs of our hands and the tops of our feet.
- Use a magnifying glass to look at the veins of the leaves.
- Ask each student to describe his or her leaf. Possible questions to ask: What color is it? What do the veins look like? Do there appear to be holes or pores on the surface?
- Tell the students to measure the length and width of their leaves.
- Have each student trace around a leaf and color the tracing to look like the real leaf.