



Cross-curricular  
Age 4-7

# Leaf outlines

- Pencil control
- Handwriting



Learning  
through  
Landscapes

## Overview

- This activity uses leaves to practise good pencil control while providing lots of opportunities for other cross-curricular learning activities.

## Learning outcomes

- To refine pencil control and accuracy.

## Equipment

- Paper and pencils
- Leaves and other natural materials

## Activity

1. Allow pupils to collect leaves of different shapes and sizes, encouraging them to use leaves that have fallen rather than picking softer leaves from ground plants.
2. Ask pupils to hold a leaf in place on a piece of paper and draw around the shape as accurately as possible, encouraging correct pencil grip and handwriting techniques.
3. When they are finished, collect all the leaves into a central pile and lay the tracings in a circle around them.
4. Ask pupils to find matching pairs of leaves and their outlines, using the activity to highlight how important it is that an outline is accurate in order to pair it with the correct leaf.
5. To further challenge your pupils, repeat the activity using other natural items such as sticks, seeds, or stones.

## Further activities

Literacy and language	Descriptive writing	Write words to describe the leaf within its outline.
Mathematics	Size ordering	Order the leaves or their outlines into size order.
	Shape	Highlight the different shapes and lines that are found among the leaves and their outlines.
Science	Seasonal changes	Repeat the activity in different seasons and observe changes.
	Tree ID/ classification	Talk about the different species of leaves in your grounds.
Art and design	Using different materials	Allow pupils to decorate their leaf outline with craft materials or colour them in autumn colours.

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: [lfl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training](https://lfl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training)