

FOSS TREES AND WEATHER MODULE—WEEK 2

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Hello Teachers and Families,

This package includes **Home/School activities for Trees and Weather Module Investigation 2—Observing Leaves**. During school closures, the FOSS team will be expanding the **Home/School Connection Center** on the FOSS website

<https://www.fossweb.com>.

Families can access Home/School Connections and other resources (multimedia, streaming video, and *FOSS Science Resources* interactive e-book) on FOSSweb through the class pages set up by the teacher. The teacher will need to provide the class username and password for full access.

If the teacher has not set up Class Pages, families can still access the **Home/School Connections Center** page from the main FOSSweb login page. No registration is necessary for this access.

The Home/School Connections for each module are active investigations that can be conducted at home (inside or outdoors). New activities are added to FOSSweb each Friday.

If you haven't used FOSSweb resources before, here's how.

For Students and Families: To sign in to FOSSweb, use the user name and password provided by your teacher. This might be a Common Class or Individual Student login. Here's a short video to get you started on FOSSweb

For Student and Families Sign in Video: <https://youtu.be/Fcfjbt7Li2k>

For FOSSweb help: <https://www.fossweb.com/student-parent-help>.

FOR TEACHERS: For help in setting up and using Class Pages, use the Walk-through Videos on FOSSweb: <https://www.fossweb.com/fossweb-walk-through-videos>

Visit the Home/School Connection for each module you teach, select the specific assignments that will be most relevant to your students at this point in instruction. Communicate with families about which content you are assigning through the Class Pages Notes on FOSSweb or through any other established parent communication channel your school has in place.

Tech support on FOSSweb: <https://www.fossweb.com/contact-us#jotform>

Sincerely, The FOSS Team at the Lawrence Hall of Science

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 2 A

Investigation 2: Observing Leaves

Here are things to do at home with this investigation.

This is the Home School Connection for Investigation 2.

Is This My Leaf?

Play this game with two or more players—the more the merrier.

Materials

8–12 leaves that have fallen from the same kind of tree

1 box or bag to hold the leaves

Activity

Collect a batch of leaves that have fallen from one tree. Take them to a table to play a leaf-identification activity.

1. Spread your leaves on a table.
2. Each player chooses one leaf and studies it carefully for a minute or two.
3. Everyone returns his or her leaf to the bag.
4. Mix up the leaves gently and spread them out again.
5. Try to find your leaf as quickly as possible.

Compare leaves with the other players. Discover what makes your leaf different from the other leaves.

- Is it the smallest?
- Is it the biggest?
- Does it have a special spot or mark on it?
- Does it have an unusual edge or shape?

When all players are sure they know how their leaf differs from all the others, return the leaves to the bag and let everyone draw a new leaf. Repeat the activity.

Math Extension

Sorting and Counting Leaves

Take the collection of leaves you gathered for the “Is This My Leaf?” game.

Have your child sort the leaves into piles based on shape or size, then count the number of leaves in each pile.

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 2 B

Investigation 2: Observing Leaves

Engage with Online Activity—“Leaf Sorting”

Login to FOSSweb with your user name and password.

Click on Trees and Weather Module. Go to **Online Activities**. Select “Leaf Sorting.”

Interact with this activity with your child. Your child should click on the shape on the right that she/he thinks best matches the leaf sample on the left.

View Streaming Video—*Once There Was a Tree*

To access the video, login to FOSSweb with the user name and password provided by your teacher. Click on Trees and Weather Module. You’ll find the video in your **Media Library** under “Streaming Videos.”

Watch the video together and discuss what you learn from the video. Here is a chapter summary for the video.

- Chapter 1 describes how animals depend on trees and shows a number of example (birds, bees, tree frogs, snakes, and squirrels). In the video, young students describe what people get from trees.
- Chapter 2 introduces students to a scientist who studies trees in the forest community. She studies the forest from the treetops using a long ladder and safety equipment to climb 23 meters above the forest floor. She has a tree house laboratory and a walkway so she can sample leaves from the tops of oak trees and compare them to the leaves at the bottoms of oak trees. She discovers secrets of the natural world, usually hidden from view.

Ask your child “What makes a tree a tree?”

Read “How Do We Learn?” ebook on FOSSweb

To access the pdf version of this book, login to FOSSweb with the user name and password provided by your teacher. Click on the Trees and Weather Module.

Go to the **Media Library**. Click eBook and look for the title.

Read “How Do We Learn?”

This book introduces how we use our five senses (see, hear, touch, smell, taste) to observe, and how we find out things by asking questions, reading, comparing, sorting, using tools, measuring, and making graphs. As you read the book together, have your child explain what he or she observes in the pictures.

Take your child outside to look at leaves. You can foster your child’s observation skills by asking them to use their senses (all, but taste) to make observations about leaves.