



Tree and Branches

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson, students will recognize and celebrate their differences and diversity within their classroom community by creating a classroom tree to display. Additionally, they will discuss the importance of inclusivity and acceptance.

Standards

INSS.ELA – K.SL.1

Listen actively and communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.

INSS.ELA – 1.SL.1

Listen actively and adjust the use of spoken language (e.g., vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.

INSS.ELA – 2.SL.1

Listen actively and adjust the use of spoken language (e.g., conventions, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.

INSS.ELA – 3-4.SL.1

Listen actively and adjust the use of spoken language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.

Themes

- Inclusion
- Belonging
- Respectfulness
- Kindness
- Acceptance

GRADES: K – 3

OBJECTIVES

During this lesson, students will:

- Explore similarities and differences among the classroom community
- Recognize the importance of demonstrating inclusion and acceptance of others

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONING

Students should be able to answer these questions by the end of this lesson:

- How can I demonstrate inclusion and acceptance of others?
- What makes me unique and special?

MATERIALS

- Leaf template

Choose one of the following:

- *Wanna Play?* by Molly Tischler
- *Wanna Play?* Read Along (link provided in Additional Resources)
- A book about inclusion or acceptance

LESSON

Before the lesson: Create a large tree trunk with several branches, each representing areas of diversity among students. Label each branch. This display should be large enough to fit students' leaves once completed.

Sample Branch Labels (you may use the branch ideas provided or create your own):

- My strengths
- My weaknesses
- My culture
- My favorite way to learn
- My family
- My favorite hobbies

Discuss: Explain to students that today we are going to be recognizing some of the characteristics that make us unique and special.

- What does it mean to be unique?
- What would our classroom look like if everyone was the same?
- Sometimes sharing something about yourself that is different from others can be scary. How could you make a classmate feel good about sharing something unique about themselves?
- Why is it important to respect one another's differences?

ASSIGNMENT

1. **Create:** Supply students with the Leaf template. Have students work collaboratively or independently to decorate a leaf describing themselves for each branch of the tree. Paste the completed leaves to the tree for display, allowing students time to view one another's work.
2. **Closing Discussion:** Conclude this activity with a class discussion on inclusivity, tolerance, and acceptance.
 - What are some similarities among us you noticed on our classroom tree?
 - What are some differences among us you noticed on our classroom tree?
 - What do you think inclusion means?
 - How can we make others feel included in our classroom?
 - How can we celebrate one another's strengths?
 - How can we help our classmates with their weaknesses?
 - Even if we do not agree with or understand something about our friends, how can we use what we've learned about inclusion to ensure we all feel accepted in our classroom?

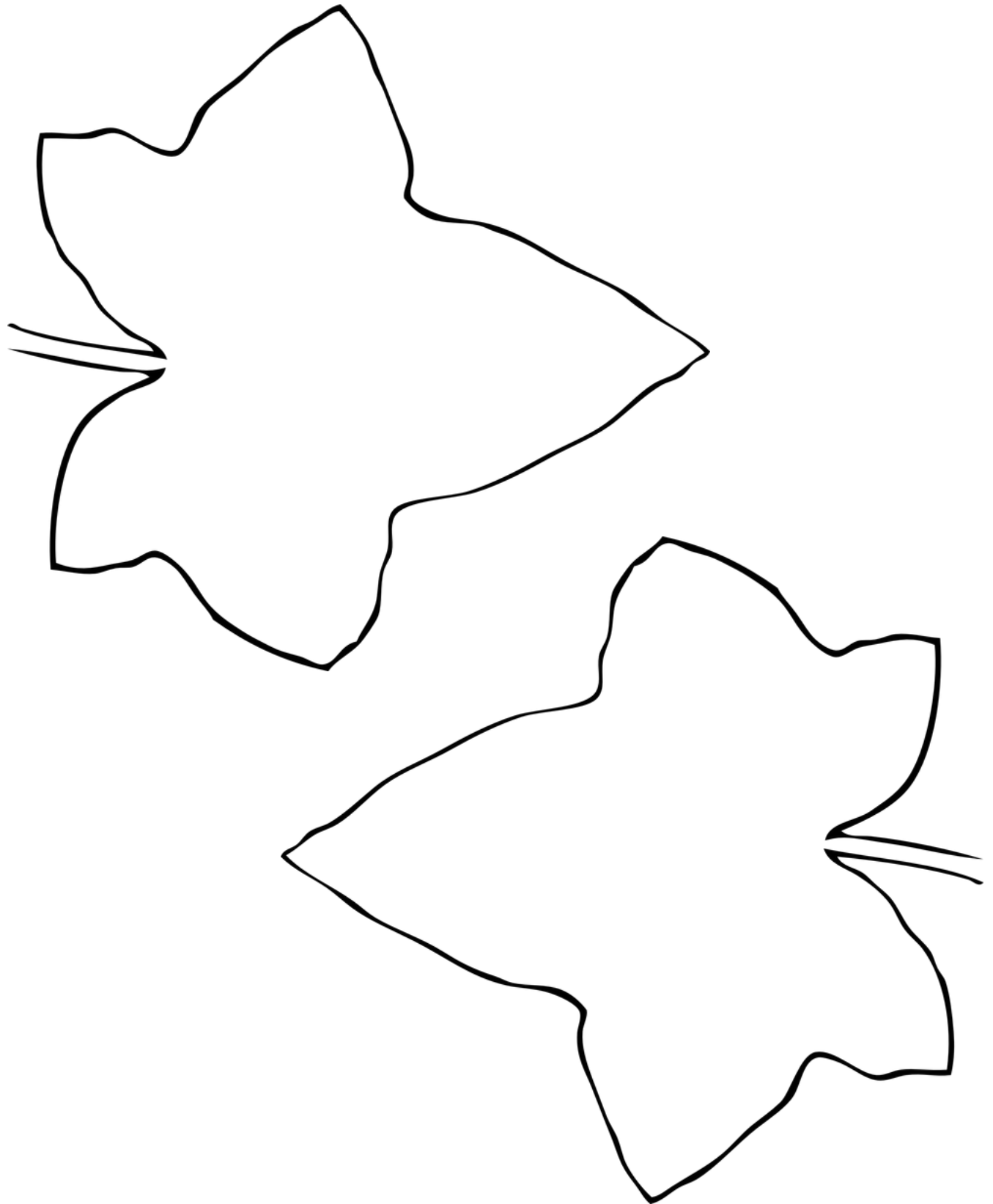
GRADING

This is an ungraded activity.

LEAF TEMPLATE

Name:

Directions: Use information about yourself to decorate a leaf for each branch of your classroom tree.



SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

For Leaf template source, visit: <https://pixabay.com/vectors/leaf-outline-maple-simple-nature-305298/>

READ ALONG

Wanna Play? by Molly Tischler

<https://youtu.be/-5S1lwiJ4oE>



DIFFERENTIATION IDEAS

- Allow students to use words or pictures to decorate their leaves.
- Create a digital tree to be shared with students to pin their leaves on.

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