

# ISLAND KIDS

## & PAPERBINS

GREGORY GRAMBO

### Fun With LEAVES

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# Fun With LEAVES

By Gregory Grambo

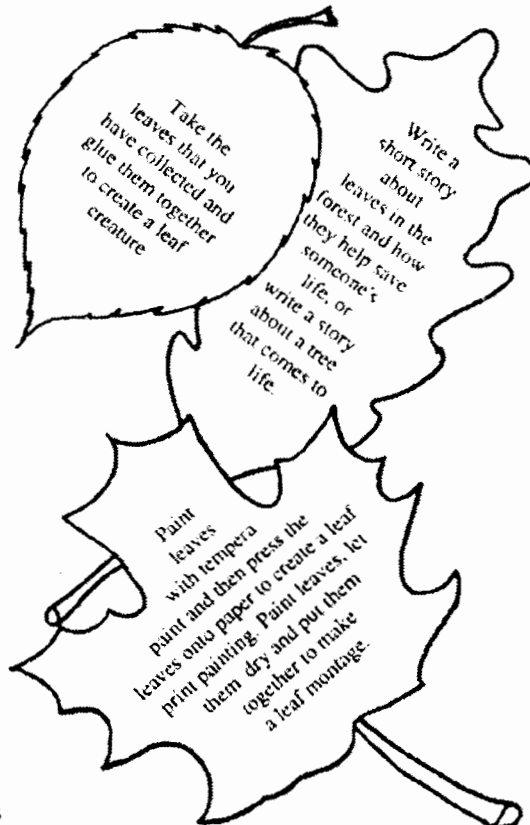
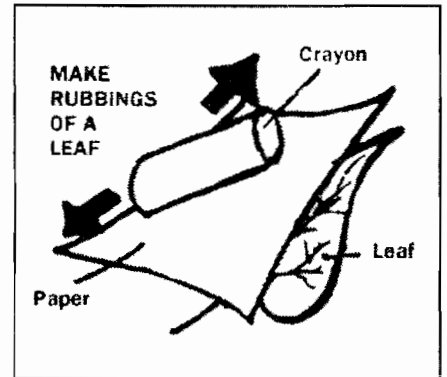
In every neighborhood and every town, you can see one of the plant kingdoms greatest structures, the tree. Ask yourself what you really know about trees. You see them all the time, but can you tell which variety grows tall and which is short? Which tree is round and which tree is flat on top?

Everyone would like to know more about these trees, which help enhance our surroundings and create our environment. It is up to you to take the opportunity to appreciate the trees.

Trees can be observed in two ways: from up close or from a distance. One way to really observe a tree is to make sketches of a tree. These sketches will allow you to examine and see the things that make varieties of trees not only different from each other, but will also help you determine how they are similar. Sketches show the shape and design of trees, which can be used as a method of identifying a species of tree. Besides shape, trees can be identified by their bark. A tree's

bark is like skin growing and changing shape from year to year. The type of design formed by nature on the bark of a tree is like a fingerprint that can be used to determine the species of tree.

Try playing a game with your friends. In a wooded area blind-fold a friend and have them feel a particular

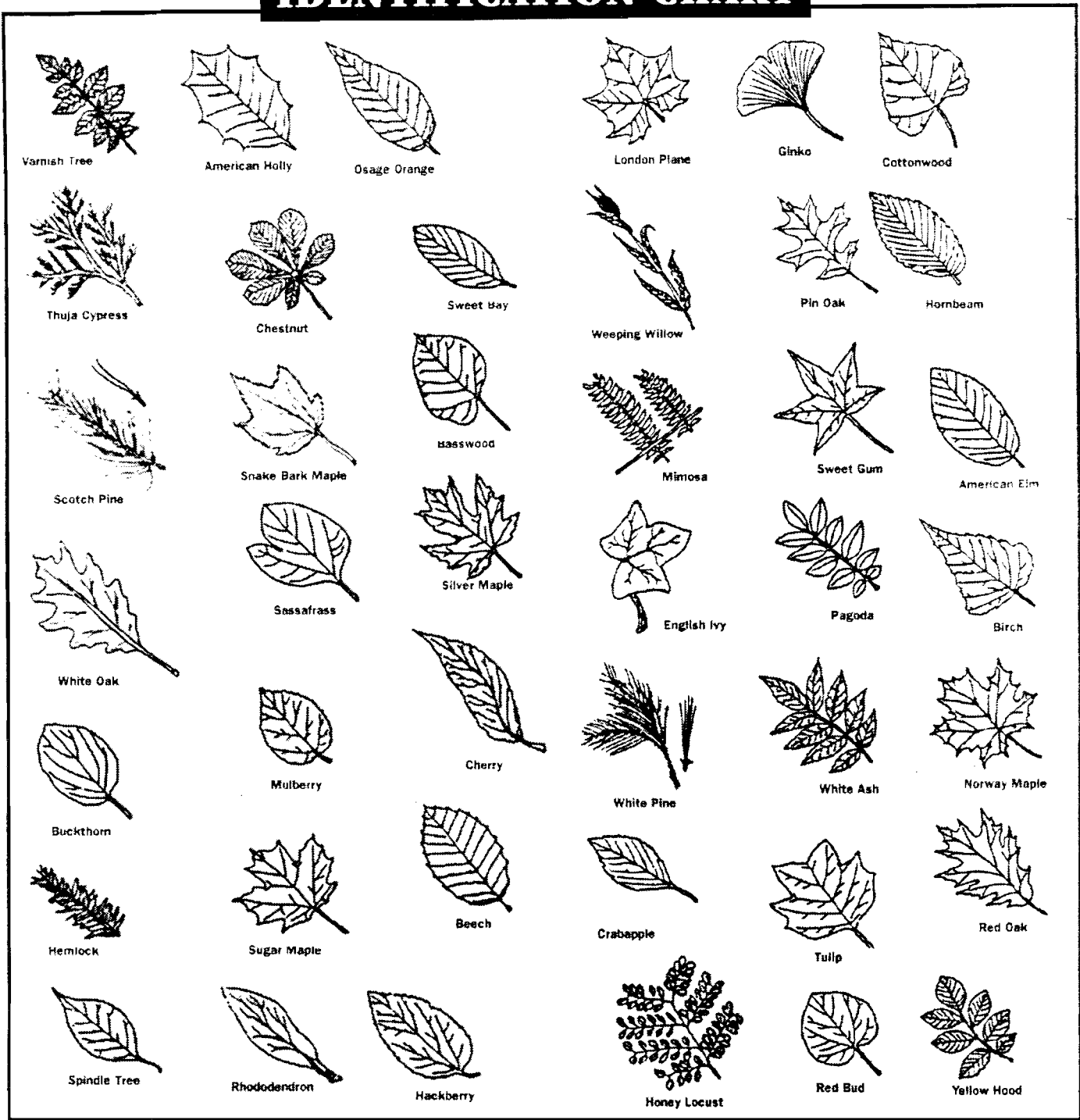


tree. Move this person away from the tree, remove the blind-fold and see if they can locate that tree again. Can they identify a tree by feeling it's bark?

You can see the design of a tree's bark by making a rubbing. Place a sheet of paper on the bark of a tree. Rub over the paper with the exposed side of a crayon. The crayon will pick up all the raised surfaces on the tree bark.

Another way to identify trees is by close observation of their leaves. Making leaf collections will enable you to discover more about the trees. Leaves can be collected from fallen branches or from the forest floor. Try grouping your collected leaves by size, shape or color. Leaves can be dried, pressed or laminated (with plastic, wax or transparent tape) and mounted in a book or on poster board. Try placing leaves

# IDENTIFICATION CHART



between sheets of newspaper and place heavy books on them until they dry. To laminate leaves in plastic or tape, use wide clear tape or clear contact style paper. You can also iron your leaves between sheets of wax paper, which will seal the leaf inside the melted wax.

Do you have a Norway Maple leaf or a Sugar Maple leaf? What

part of each leaf is different or similar to the others that you have collected? How can you identify these leaves that you have collected? How can you identify these leaves to the drawings on this page or to the drawings and photographs in books about leaves?

You can find books on leaves at your local public library. The

chief value of any collection lies in the searching and the collecting, more than in the having.

The fun you will have and the discoveries you will make about leaves, combined with the satisfaction of owning, displaying and explaining your collection to your friends will make the collecting even more worthwhile.

