

Dichotomous Trees

Class size: up to 32 students

Time: 45 minutes

Objectives: To better familiarize students with classification systems through personal analysis of differences between people and apply that understanding to the differences between tree leaves.

SWBAT:

1. Identify differences between species of leaves
2. Use the dichotomous tree book to identify the tree that their leaves came from to help improve the skill in the field

Materials:

Paper leaves for human cladistic activity

Wall size tree trunk with corresponding branches

Tape

Real leaves

Dichotomous tree books

Activity 1: Differences between You and Me

Give out paper leaves for students to cut out and answer the questions on their leaves.

Questions:

1. Do you have attached or detached ear lobes?
2. Can you wiggle your nostrils - yes or no?
3. Can you roll your tongue -yes or no?
4. Fold your hands together, is your left or right thumb on top?

After answering the questions students will find their branch on the AUP tree. From the trunk have it branch into two branched for question one. Each branched should then branch into two again for question 2, and so on. Eventually there should be leaves all over the trees new canopy of the student traits.

Discuss traits and what just happened and how this same type of classification is done with the differences in tree leaves and so on.

Activity 2: Tree leaf identification

Students will now grab several real leaves and work in small groups to improve their identification skill with the dichotomous tree key. Discuss some of the answers with the groups.