

# Theme:

# Fall (Leaves)

# Week 2

This document contains all of the activities for the theme Fall (Leaves) “for the age group “Big Littles.”

Have fun!

Questions or comments? Please email us at

[playconnecttoday@gmail.com!](mailto:playconnecttoday@gmail.com)

All activities require adult supervision!

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\*Clip art images taken from: <https://publicdomainvectors.org> and <https://clipartsearch.freebusinessapps.net/>

\*Images used from: unspash.com

# Book Suggestion

(We highly recommend checking your local library for this book, however if you cannot find it-please see link on our “Theme extras” web page to purchase if desired or find another book that showcase fall (leaves)! -We suggest using the same book for two weeks as this really helps children gain reading comprehension of the book! \*\*You do not need to read the entire story all at once. Some children have a difficult time concentrating for an entire story, it is totally okay to portion on the story over a few reading sessions!



# Song Suggestion:

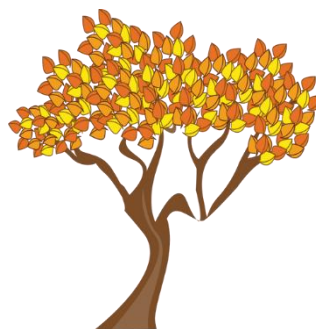
## All the leaves are falling down

(Sung to the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down")

*Written by Play Connect LLC*

All the leaves are falling down  
Falling down, falling down  
All the leaves are falling down  
Red, yellow, orange and brown

Rake them up into a pile  
Into a pile, into a pile  
Rake them up into a pile  
Then jump in, it will make you smile!





# Simple Vocabulary Words

These are optional vocabulary cards to show your child before reading the story to help with understanding. It is also a great idea to point out the words while reading the book!



**WIND**



**KITE**



**FALL**



**LEAVES**



**PINECONE**



**PUMPKIN**



**RAKE**



**ACORN**

# Art Project: Leaf Stamping

## What you need for this activity:

- \*Leaves from various trees
- \*Non-toxic Paint
- \*Paintbrushes
- \*Construction Paper (white works best for this)
- \*Coloring Utensil

## Directions:

- \*For this activity your child(ren) will use leaves as stamps to create a fall image.
- \*To begin, gather leaves with your child, it will work best if the leaves are not super crunchy (or they will break too easily).
- \*Next, in the middle of the construction paper, write “Happy Fall” (if your child is able to trace the letters then write them in dashed print).
- \*Then ask your child(ren) to choose a leaf and paint it on ONE side. They may choose to use one of more colors.
- \*Finally, FIRMLY press the leaf down on the paper around the words. Keep doing this until the page has multiple fall leaves on it!

# Pre-writing Activity:

## Raking Leaves Challenge

### What you need for this activity:

- \*Rake (child sized is best)
- \*Leaves
- \*Optional: Raking Leaves PDF
- \*Optional: Writing Utensil

### Directions:

- \*While raking leaves your child will work on their understanding of horizontal lines, an important line-type in creating letters!
- \*Note that for this activity you need leaves to rake, however, if you do not have any, your child can pretend to rake with fake leaves or ones you create out of construction paper!
- \*If you are able to: go outside! Then show your child how you rake leaves – if they already know this, you can skip this step.
- \*Remind them of what a *horizontal* line looks like. If they do not know, you can draw one for them (or show an example).
- \*Then, with your child, practice raking leaves in a horizontal line. Rake them into a pile and you've done yard work while working on pre-writing skills!
- \*Optionally, following this activity, ask your child to complete the Raking Leaves page. They may trace the lines as carefully as possible.

# Math Activity: Counting Leaves

## What you need for this activity:

- \*Counting Leaves Game
- \*Printable Leaves (Indoor Option)
- \*Actual Leaves (Outdoor Option)

## Directions:

This activity will let help your child practice quantification as the count and grab leaves! Note there is a difference between being able to say numbers “1, 2, 3...” and understand the amount associated with each number – aka taking 1 apple when someone says 1, 2 when someone says 2 etc.

\*\*See game directions below



# Counting Leaves 1, 2, 3!

## Instructions:

There are a couple different ways to play this game, either option has the same goal of understanding the name of a number with its quantity.

### **Option 1: Outdoors**

For this option you will (as the name suggests) need to go outside. Furthermore, you will need to be around leaves that have fallen to the ground.

Group of children:

Tell children they will race to grab leaves and bring them back to you. This game can easily be made more challenging or easier depending on the group playing.

Call out: "Grab 2 leaves" the children then run and grab 2 and bring them back, trying to see who can get there the quickest (do this for 1 and 3 as well). To make them game more difficult, call out larger numbers and/or add in colors. For example: "Bring me 5 yellow leaves."

Whoever "wins" gets a point. Note they must bring you the *correct* number of leaves and get there first to "win." You may choose to play until a certain number of points are won or a certain number of rounds.

One child:

Again, call out number of leaves (and color if desired) but add in another element such as "jump the leaves back to me" or "grab the leaves and turn in a circle" as they will not be racing someone in the game.

## Option 2: Indoors

For this option you will play this game in an indoor space.

To begin, print off and cut out (or create your own) leaves. Try to make them fall colors: red, orange, and yellow. \*\*If you did the leaf letters last week, you could use any leftover as well!

Then spread them out all over the space you are playing in. (You could even hide them to make the game more difficult).

After this, the game is played the same as the outdoor version:

Group of children:

Tell children they will race to grab leaves and bring them back to you. This game can easily be made more challenging or easier depending on the group playing.

Call out: "Grab 2 leaves" the children then run and grab 2 and bring them back, trying to see who can get there the quickest (do this for 1 and 3 as well). To make them game more difficult, call out larger numbers and/or add in colors. For example: "Bring me 5 yellow leaves."

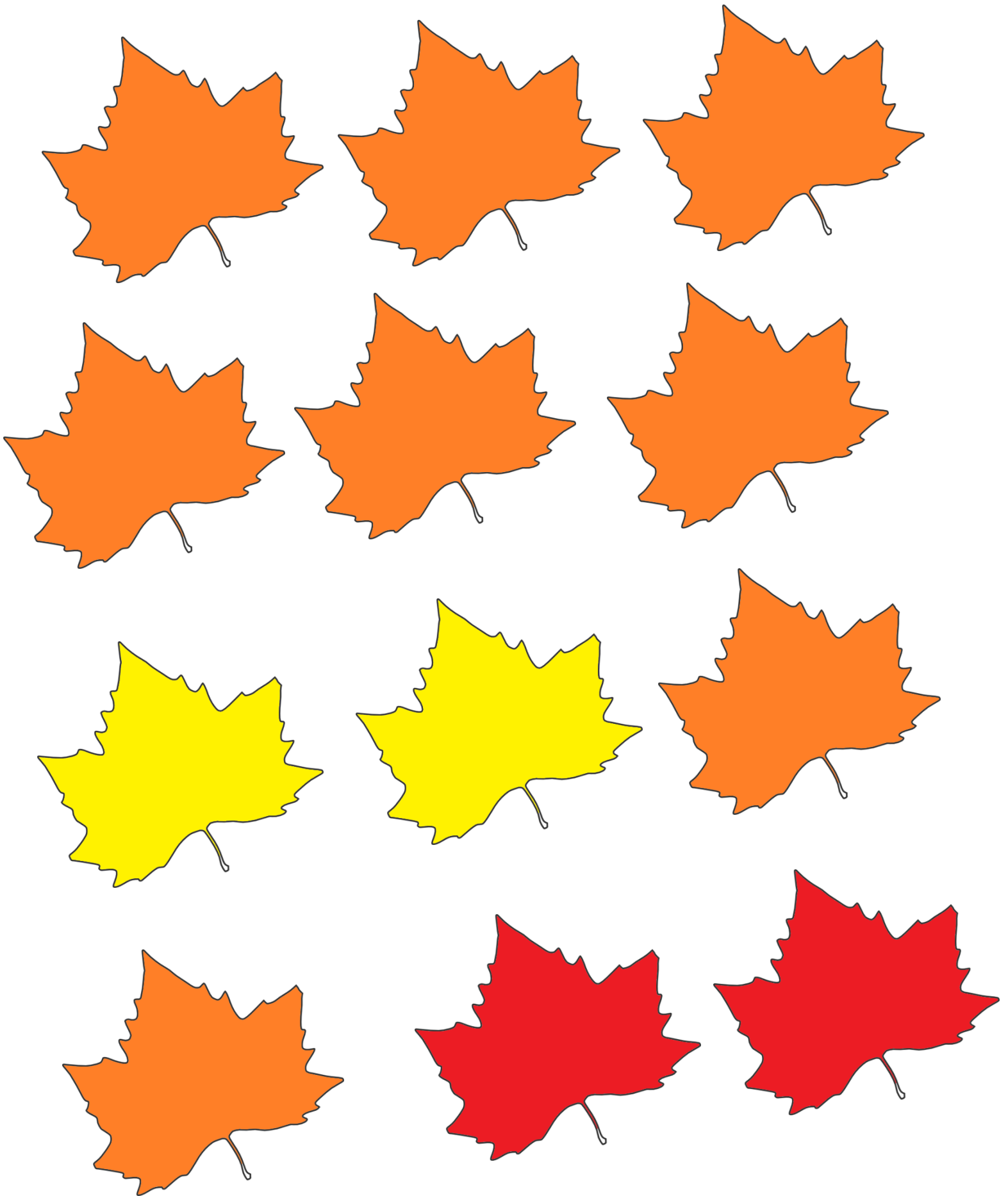
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One child:

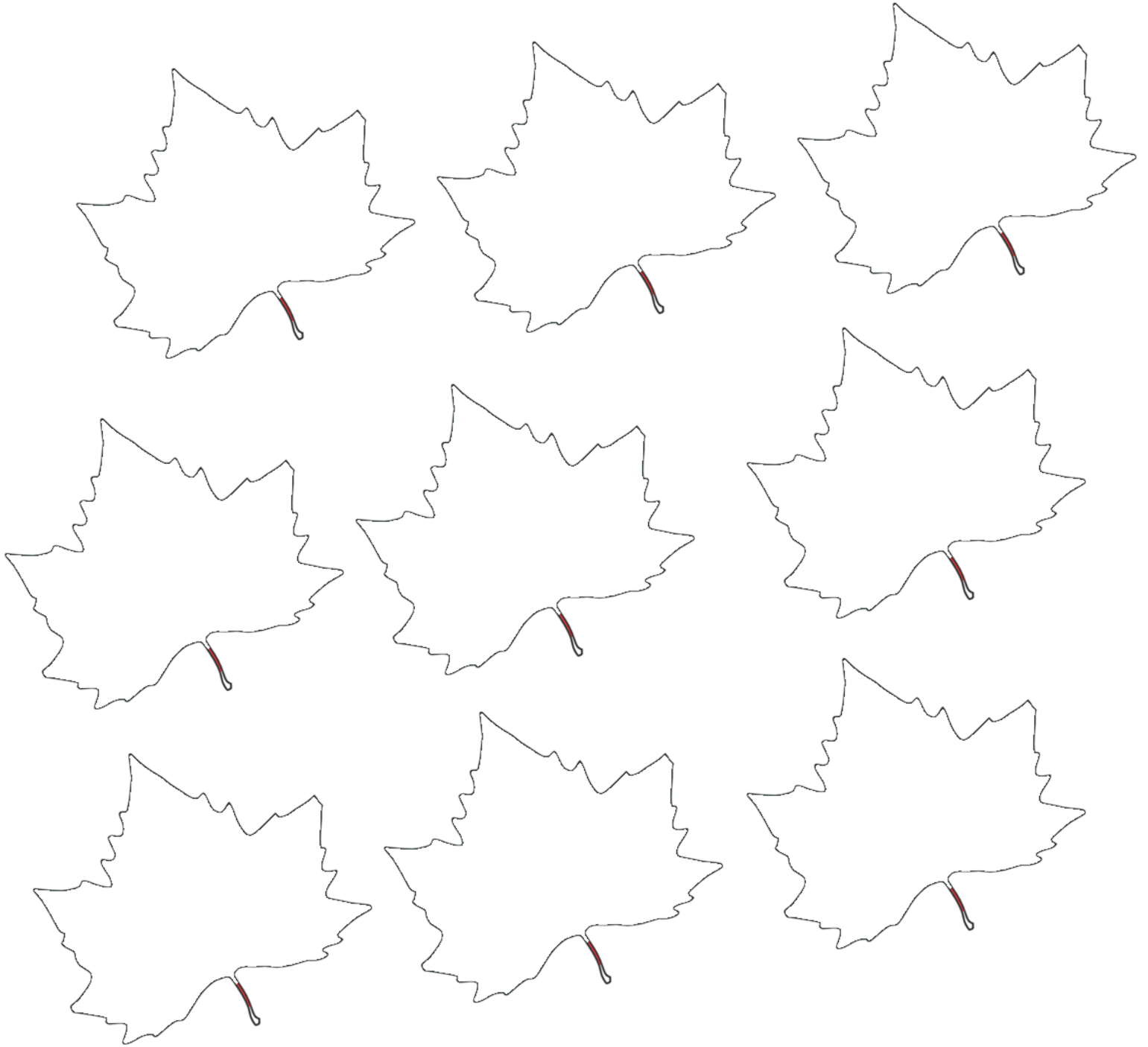
Again, call out number of leaves (and color if desired) but add in another element such as "jump the leaves back to me" or "grab the leaves and turn in a circle" as they will not be racing someone in the game.

Printable leaves (color)





# Printable Leaves (Black and White)





# Language Activity:

## “Popcorn” Story

### What you need for this activity:

- \*Group of children
- \*Vocabulary words (optional)
- \*Colorful leaves (optional)

### Directions:

\*For this activity your child(ren) will participate in creating a “popcorn-style” story. This will encourage them to practice their ability to listen to a story (when others are speaking) and their own oral language (when they add to it).

\*To begin, ask them what they know about the fall. (If needed, you can show them the vocabulary words and/or book to give them an idea).

\*Then tell them they will make a story together about the fall.

\*Again, feel free to display the words while doing this to help them (it may be quite difficult for some children).

\*Version 1: “I love the fall because...” This version is the most basic as it is not so much a story that flows but more opinions.

One child begins with “I love the fall (Or I don’t love the fall) because – and states what they are thinking. Then the next child goes and so on.

\*Version 2: “I was walking outside on a fall day...” This version is more complicated as the story should have some flow.

One child begins with “I was walking outside on a fall day” then adds on “and I saw” or “and I (action word like jumped).” Again, the next child goes and so on. Note – they do NOT need to repeat what the child said before them.

\*Version 3: Make up your own. This is the most complex of the versions as children will make up the story completely on their own. It can be anything fall-related but should also flow together.

# Science Activity:

## Why do leaves fall?

### What you need for this activity:

- \*Outdoors by trees
- \*Optional: paper and pencil and/or dry erase board with markers
- \*Optional: chalk

### Directions:

\*For this science activity your child(ren) will learn about why leaves fall off of the trees.

\*To begin, if possible, take your child(ren) for a walk. While you are walking, examine the trees. Are there still leaves on all of them? Are there leaves on the ground? What colors do the leaves have (if you did the experiment last week, you can remind them why/how the leaves change colors).

\*Ask them why they think the leaves don't stay on the tree all year long.

\*\*At this point you could write down their ideas

\*Then pick up a leaf from the ground, and ask your child to *really* observe it and tell you what they see. Do they notice the stem? The veins in the leaf?

\*Ask what they think the veins do. \*\*The simple answer is that the veins carry water that the tree has sucked up through its roots into the leaves. The leaves then use that water to make "food" for the tree – again the veins transport it so the tree can "eat."

**\*\*\*Now if you would like to do an example activity of the next portion:**

### **Option 1 (a bit more complex)**

\*Take some ribbon and attach it to a piece of paper (preferably in the shape of a leaf but this is not absolutely necessary).

\*Ask your child to (or you can as well) make a tiny cut in the ribbon (not all the way through yet). Then another cut and another until finally you have cut it all the way. What happens? The leaf falls to the ground!

\*When it starts getting cold outside the leaves know that their time is near, as temperatures drop, tiny ridges are made at the stem of each leaf (the part that connects it to the tree). These little ridges act like the scissors you used to make the connection less and less strong between the leaf and the tree. Eventually the tree pushes them off.

So why can't trees keep their leaves all year round? In the cold winter months, trees know they won't have enough water to keep their leaves and themselves alive so they let them go. If they did not do this, the tree itself would not survive the winter.

### **Option 2**

Draw a large circle (that can fit all of the people participating) with some chalk.

Ask one person to stand in the middle of the circle (they represent the tree)

Everyone else begins by standing close to the "tree."

The tree says "oh it's getting colder." Everyone surrounding the tree takes a small step back. Keep repeating this until someone steps out of the circle. Then "My leaves are falling!" Continue until all of the leaves have "fallen."

Explain that as it gets colder the leaves slowly break their connection to the tree. Once they have broken it completely, they fall down! Trees need their leaves to fall so that they can keep as many nutrients (tree food) as possible so they can make it when it gets really cold out!