

## My Secret Leaf

**Subject:** Focus on observation and detail

**Duration:** 1 Hour

**Setting:** Classroom

**Materials:** Journal, 1 leaf per student, pencils, magnifying glass, colored pencils, rulers

**National Standards** – LS1.A, LS1.B, LS2.A

**Guiding Theme:** Using observation skills and details to communicate information in their journal

Note: You can use this activity on a day with bad weather – this is good early on, maybe for the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> class.

### Prep

You will need to find leaves for each student. Choose a variety but also choose groups of 2-3 leaves that are similar so that students have to notice details to tell them apart. Houseplant leaves or leaves from a florist will work well in winter.

### Activity Instructions

This activity is a game, where students will need to identify the leaf that matches another student's journal entry (students will make the match based on the other student's drawings). If available, provide students with magnifying lenses and rulers.

If colored pencils are used in this activity, remind students that observation is the goal of the game, not making the prettiest picture. Prompt students to maybe invent a new symbol or try something new and different on their journal page for this activity.

1. Have the students diagram their leaf and record their INIWIRMOs about their leaf in their own space, so other students cannot see what they are drawing.
2. When students finish drawing and writing, have them come up to you and return their leaf.
3. You will play music, and then when the music stops, students will stop, and whoever they are closest to will be their partner for this activity. The students will swap journals with their partner.

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### **Instructions Continued...**

4. Give students a bit of time to look at their partner's journal. Then call students up one by one (or let them all go up at once, or in groups of 2-3), and they will choose the leaf they think goes with their partner's journal.
5. Once both students have chosen a leaf, they will discuss why they chose that leaf with their partners.
6. If time allows, do a second round. This can help students see more journals.

### **Discussion Questions**

Did anyone notice a technique that another student used that they liked and may try to use too?

Did you notice anything about your leaf that you've never noticed before? What was it?

# MY SECRET LEAF

? I wonder why it is thick

! The edges reminds me of wrinkled skin

It feels thick and smooth

💡 It reminds me of leather

🌀 I notice the interior is dark green, becoming lighter green along the edges

? I wonder what type of plant it came from

The veins are deep depressions

? I wonder why the stem is red on the underside

Very light green

! It reminds me of Christmas colors

🌀 I notice the stem is green with red trimming

Feels soft

🌀 Red stem underside

