

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

Dichotomous Key Activity

In this activity, you will be using a **dichotomous key** found at the *LEAF* web site (put together at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point) to identify an unknown tree. After identifying the unknown tree, you will follow a link from that site to the *Silvics of North America* web site (USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area - St. Paul Field Office) to collect some information on your tree and fill in the worksheet included with this exercise.

Instructions:

1. Open your web browser.
2. Type in the address for the *LEAF* web site.(www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf)
3. Click on the "Tree Identification" link.
4. Choose "LEAF On-line Tree Key."
5. Read the sections on the left entitled "What is a Dichotomous Key?" and "How to use this key." We will be doing exercise #2.
6. After you've read the instructions, scroll down in the left hand frame until you see the list of numbers. Click on the number you've been given for your "unknown tree."
7. Using the images shown in the left hand frame, answer the questions in the right hand frame until you get the pictures in the two frames to match. If you have trouble answering any of the questions, ask your instructor for help.
8. Once you get the pictures to match – Congratulations! You've identified your tree – scroll down to the bottom of the right hand frame and click on the link for *Silvics of North America* to learn more about your tree.
9. Fill out the worksheet on your tree using the information you find at this site.

Resources:

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
(www.uswp.edu)

LEAF Website
(www.uswp.edu/cnr/leaf)

USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area - St. Paul Field Office
(www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo)

Silvics of North America - online book/publication with information on around 200 trees
(www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/table_of_contents.htm)