



Benji's Explorer Club

Discover Explore Learn Grow in Faith

Common Trees of the Eastern United States Leaves in Summer and Fall

Look at how the leaves change! Each tree has a unique leaf.



God's creation
teaches us to
look closer!
Explore • Observe
Be Amazed!

Red Maple



Summer

Fall

3-5 pointed lobes.
Often turns bright red in fall.

Sugar Maple



Summer

Fall

Classic maple shape with
5 main lobes. Beautiful fall colors.

White Oak



Summer

Fall

Rounded lobes.
Common and long-lived.

Red Oak



Summer

Fall

Pointed, bristle-tipped lobes.
Often turns red or brown in fall.

Sweetgum



Summer

Fall

Distinctive 5-pointed star shape.
Often turns red, orange, or purple.

Tulip Poplar



Summer

Fall

Unique tulip-shaped leaf with
4 rounded lobes. One of the largest
leaves in our forests.

American Sycamore



Summer

Fall

Very large leaf with shallow lobes.
Mottled, patchy bark on the tree.

Eastern Redbud



Summer

Fall

Heart-shaped leaf.
Beautiful pink flowers in spring.

Sassafras



Summer

Fall

Leaves can be different shapes
on the same tree (lobed, mitten-shaped,
or oval). Smells spicy when crushed.

American Beech



Summer

Fall

Oval leaf with straight side veins
and small teeth.
Turns golden brown in fall.

Flowering Dogwood



Summer

Fall

Oval leaf with curved veins.
Often turns red or purple in fall.

Black Walnut



Summer

Fall

Compound leaf with 11-23 leaflets.
Crush a leaflet to smell a strong,
earthy scent.

Every season
has a purpose,
and we can trust God
through every change.

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Leaf Detective Tips:

- Look closely at the shape, size and edges.
- Notice the color (it can vary!).
- Check for seeds, nuts or berries.
- Compare leaves on the tree and on the ground.
- Take this guide with you when you explore!

Take a walk, find some leaves,
and see what trees grow
where you live!



Explore
Observe
Be Amazed
Give God the Glory!



Benji's Explorer Club
Discover • Explore • Learn • Grow in Faith

Outdoor Leaf Challenge

Look • Explore • Collect • Discover
See what God has made!

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."
Psalm 19:1 (NIV)

Your Mission:

Go outside with a parent, grandparent or friend and see how many different leaves you can find! Use the checklist below to help you look. Collect a few fallen leaves (with permission) and take them home to add to your Explorer Binder.

Every leaf tells a story of God's amazing design!

Before You Go:



Take a bag or basket to collect leaves.



Bring your detective guide (leaf ID page).



Take a pencil.



Bring your Explorer Binder to add your findings when you get home.



Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather.

Be a Good Explorer!

- ✓ Look for fallen leaves on the ground.
- ✓ Be gentle — don't pull leaves off the trees.
- ✓ Respect nature. Leave plants and animals where they belong.
- ✓ Stay with a grown-up.
- ✓ Be safe and aware of your surroundings.
- ✓ Only collect what you can use for your learning.
- ✓ Thank God for the beauty all around you!

Leaf Finding Checklist

How many of these leaves can YOU find in your area?
Check the box when you find one!

☐

Red Maple

☐

American Sycamore

☐

Sugar Maple

☐

Eastern Redbud

☐

White Oak

☐

Sassafras

☐

Red Oak

☐

American Beech

☐

Sweetgum

☐

Flowering Dogwood

☐

Tulip Poplar

☐

Black Walnut

☐

Bonus! Find a leaf that is not on the list!
What tree do you think it came from? _____



What to Do with Your Leaves:

- 1 Look at each leaf closely. Notice the shape, size, edges and color.
- 2 Compare it to your Leaf Detective Guide.
- 3 Choose a few of your best leaves.
- 4 Take them home and add them to your Explorer Binder using the Leaf Discovery Pages.
- 5 Write about what you noticed and where you found it.
- 6 Give thanks to God for creating such a beautiful world!



Remember:

- ✓ Leaves change colors in the fall.
- ✓ Each tree is unique.
- ✓ No two leaves are exactly alike — just like you!
- ✓ God made every leaf with a purpose!

Explore
Observe
Be Amazed
Give God the Glory!

"Let the trees of the forest sing, let them sing for joy before the Lord, for He comes to judge the earth." Psalm 96:12 (NIV)

Look
Explore
Learn
Grow in Faith





Attach
your leaf here
(tape or glue gently)

Tree (if you know): _____

Leaf color: _____

Where I found it: _____

Date: _____

My Notes: _____

Look Close Be Curious Give Thanks Explore More

Attach
your leaf here
(tape or glue gently)

Tree (if you know): _____

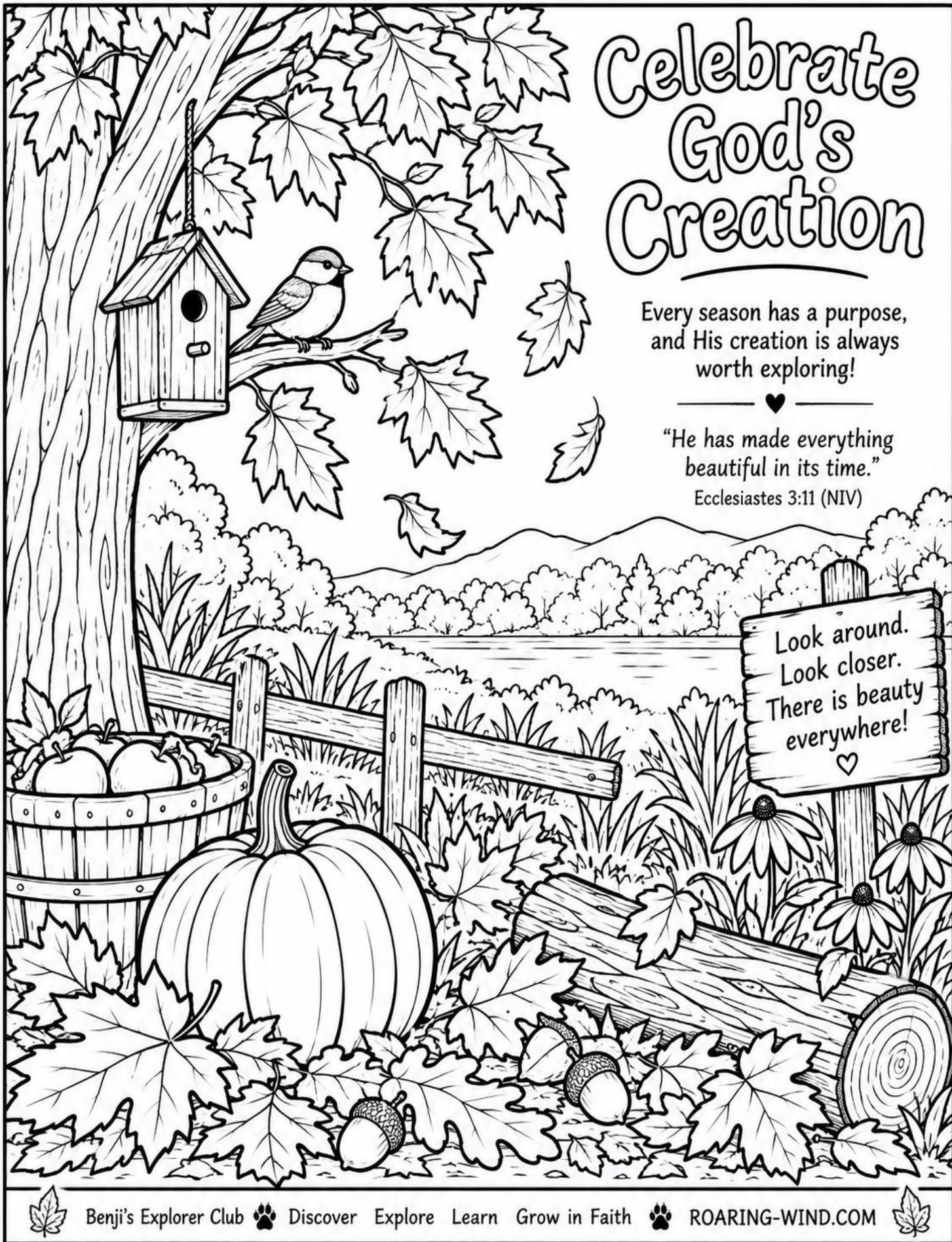
Leaf color: _____

Where I found it: _____

Date: _____

My Notes: _____

Every leaf
tells a story of
God's amazing design!



Celebrate God's Creation

Every season has a purpose,
and His creation is always
worth exploring!



"He has made everything
beautiful in its time."

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)

Look around.
Look closer.
There is beauty
everywhere!



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