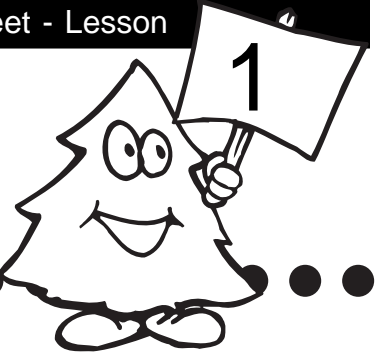


Collecting and Preserving Leaf Specimens



The cheapest and easiest way to collect and preserve leaf specimens is to carry a telephone book with you to the field. When you remove a specimen from the tree, place it between the pages of the phone book, along with a label which describes the specimen.

Removing the specimen

When removing specimens from the tree, it is best to use pruning shears so that you minimize your impact on the tree. If you are working with a compound leaf, try to get the whole leaf. When removing a specimen from a tree that has opposite arrangement, try to remove two or four leaves with their position on the stem intact.

Labeling the Specimen

You will need the following information recorded with your specimen:

1. Species name
2. Date of Collection
3. Name of collector
4. Location of tree
5. Any other notes which would help in identification

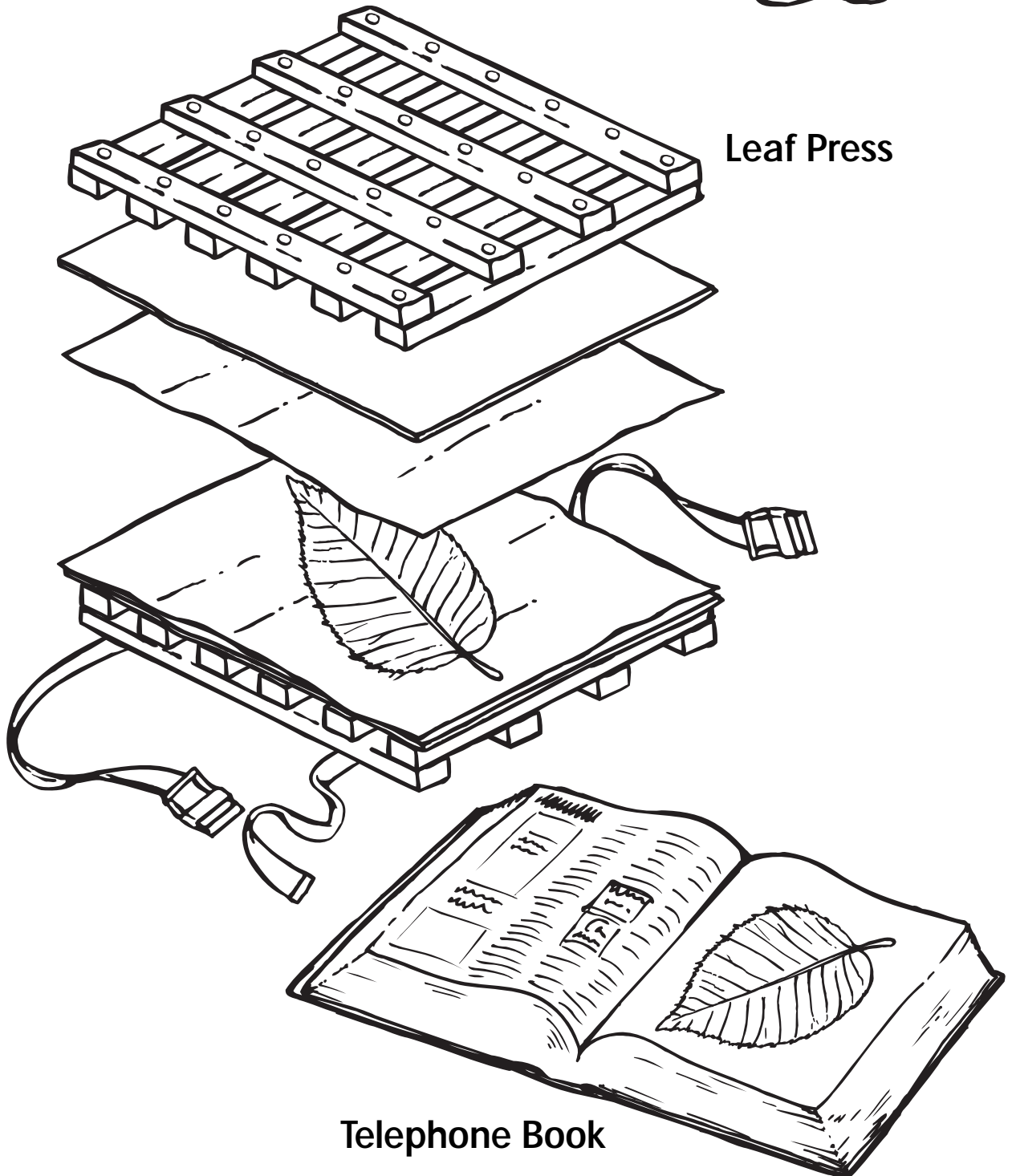
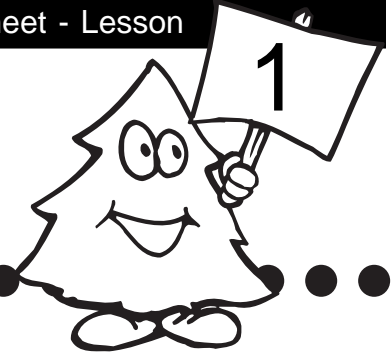
Drying and mounting your leaf specimens

Store your telephone book in a warm, dry location for three days, until dry. Lay a heavy book on top to make sure the leaves dry in a flat, secure position. Remove specimens when dry. Apply standard white glue to the leaf surfaces, and mount on cover-stock or construction-type paper. Remember to exhibit both sides of a leaf. Label the specimen in the bottom right hand corner. (Alternatively, you can label the specimen on the reverse side and use the specimen for quizzes.)

Other methods

The professional way to press and mount specimens is to use a plant press, which can be purchased from a forestry or biological supply company. Photocopying your leaves is also a way to preserve images of leaves.

Collecting and Preserving Leaf Specimens



Leaf Press

Telephone Book