Unbe-LEAF-able Discoveries!

Objective: *Students will investigate the role of leaves in plant growth and photosynthesis, observe seasonal changes in leaf coloration, and compare the physical characteristics of deciduous and evergreen trees through hands-on outdoor exploration.*

Materials: magnifying glasses

1. Take students outdoors to learn about how leaves and photosynthesis.
2. Discuss photosynthesis and how and why it works.
3. Explore outdoors and examine how leaves are beginning to change in color and how some leaves, conifers, will never change all season long.
4. Instruct students to find a leaf and examine it with the magnifying glass. Have them compare it to a conifer (needles), if available.

Make It Mindful- Mindfulness Activity

Mindful Leaf Observation (2 minutes)

Using the magnifying glasses, have each student silently examine their leaf, noticing its colors, veins, texture, and shape before sharing one detail they hadn't noticed before. After a minute, have them trade leaves with a classmate and repeat.

Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL)

SOL Strands: Living Systems and Processes; Earth and Space Systems
SOL Alignment: K.9b, K.10b–c, 1.4a–c, 1.7c, 2.7, 3.4

Month: October