

Living Labs Tree Identification

WALT: Use observation skills to find features in nature that can be used to identify the species at Living Labs

Pre site visit lesson

Materials needed:

- Wooden pole/s or bamboo
- Masking tape
- Permanent marker
- Associated worksheets

Refer to site maps below to locate block 5 of the Living Labs site. Before the visit, identify an individual from each tree species within the block and mark at least one of each using masking tape and a permanent marker. Number each tree clearly from 1 through to 6.

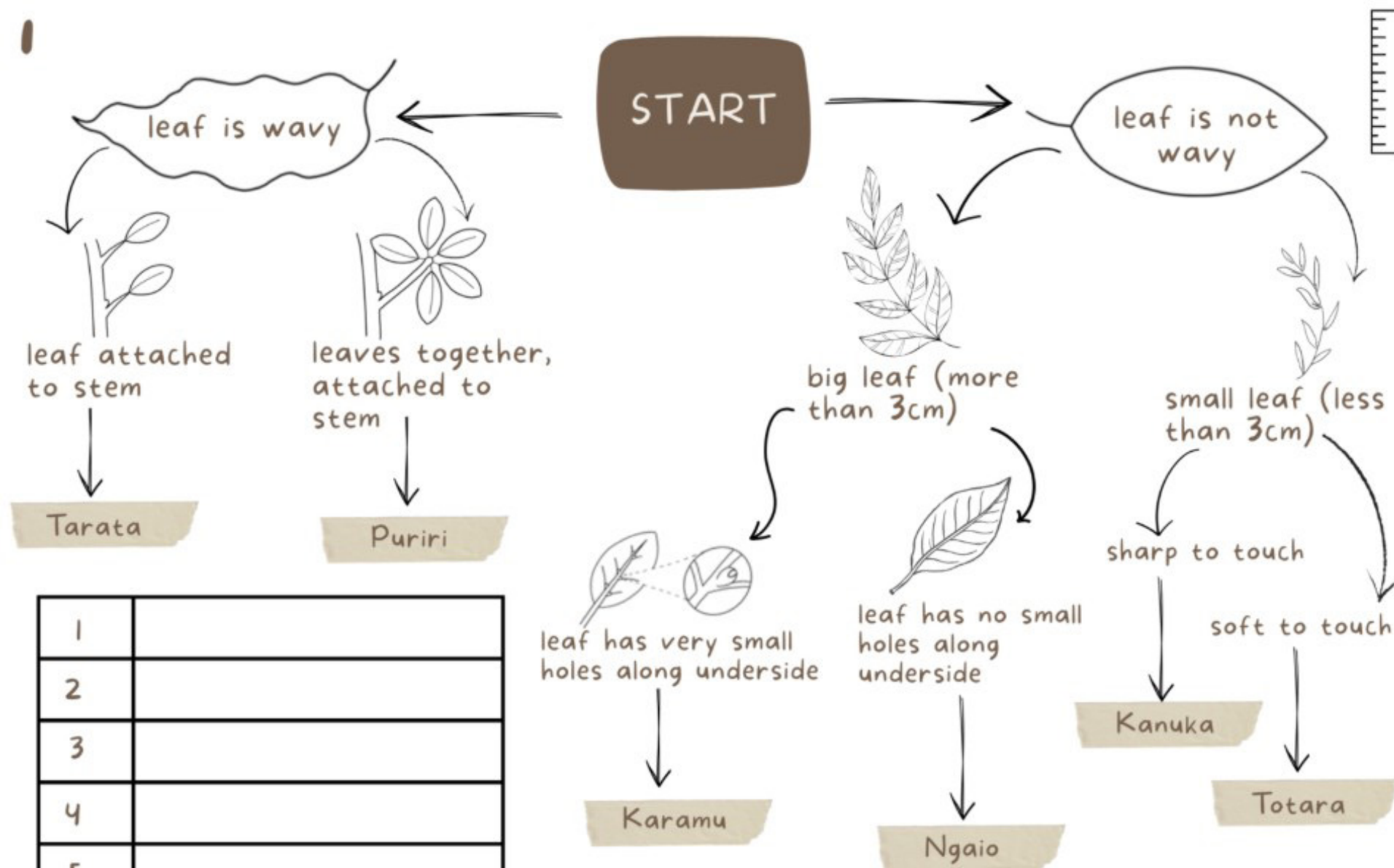
On-site lesson

Provide learners with a site map and explain that it can be used to help them orient themselves.

Introduce the dichotomous key as a scientific tool used to identify species by working through a series of yes or no questions. Explain that each choice leads the learner closer to an accurate identification. Model how to use the dichotomous key by working through one example as a whole group, thinking aloud as you move through the key so learners can hear the decision-making process.

Break the learners into small groups and invite them to locate the marked trees. Each group will use the dichotomous key to identify the trees, recording the numbered marker and the species name for each one. Prompt learners to refer to the map throughout the activity rather than relying only on memory or following others.

Bring the group back together to share findings and discuss any differences in identification. Support learners to revisit the key where needed and reinforce the importance of careful observation when making decisions at each step.



1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

