

Name: _____

Date: _____

Tree Identification

The scientific study of trees is called dendrology. Trees and plants are identified by many characteristics including bark, flowers, fruits and seeds, buds, and twig traits. One of the easiest ways to identify a tree is by examining its leaves. By identifying leaf type and leaf arrangement you can determine the species of most trees.

First, the leaf is determined to be simple or compound. Trees with simple leaves have one blade attached to a single stalk or twig. Trees with compound leaves have two or more blades attached to a single stalk or twig. Trees with simple leaves are said to have simple leaves; trees with compound leaves are said to have compound leaves.

Step #1- Simple leaf: OR Compound leaf:

(go to step #2)

(go to step #2)

If the leaf is simple, it is determined whether its edges are lobed or unlobed. Lobed