

Pre-Visit Information for Teachers

“Dichotomous Key - Tree Hunt”

On-Site Program



Chattahoochee Nature Center

Grade Level:

5th-12th

GPS Reference:

S5L1, S6-8CS9, S7L1, S5-8CS4, SCS3, SCS4, SCS6, SB3

Vocabulary: *Taxonomy,*

Dichotomous keys, Angiosperm, Gymnosperm, Simple or Compound leaf, Base, Apex, Margin

Objective: Students will create their own dichotomous key of GA

What You Should Know:

This is a 75-minute program on site at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Allow extra time for students to view exhibits, visit the nature store, and use the restroom before or after the program. All efforts will be made to conduct the program outdoors. *Encourage students to dress for the weather.*

Summary

Students will first use a key, then create and use a dichotomous key to identify trees at CNC.

Vocabulary

- 🌐 *Taxonomy* - science of classification
- 🌐 *Dichotomous keys* - branching tool used to identify organisms; based on observable characteristics
- 🌐 *Angiosperm* - any vascular plant having seeds, fruits, flowers, and may be deciduous
- 🌐 *Gymnosperm* - non-flowering vascular plant with seeds not in fruit (incl. cone bearers); leaves often needlelike and evergreen
- 🌐 *Simple leaf* - has a single blade
- 🌐 *Compound leaf* - has many blades or leaflets
- 🌐 *Base* - bottom of leaf blade
- 🌐 *Apex* - tip of leaf blade
- 🌐 *Margin* - edge of leaf blade

Before Your Visit

Discuss the vocabulary words in the classroom. Lookup Linnaeus, the father of classification. His system of classifying organisms is still used today. Create a pile of student shoes. Then have students classify them into categories based on visual characteristics.

Planning Your Visit to the Nature Center**🌐 Arrive on Time!**

Due to scheduling constraints, late groups will lose valuable program time.

🌐 Know Where You Are Going!

Please refer to the map in the confirmation packet for directions.

🌐 Divide and Partner!

Save time by having all participants divided in the number of groups indicated on your confirmation letter. ***A CNC group consist of no more than 25 students and 5 adults.*** Have students pair up to allow for safe trail access and visibility while on the trail.

🌐 Make us Aware of Special Needs!

If you have students with special needs let us know. Preparation for special needs ensures a quality experience for all students.

Questions? Call us at (770) 992-2055 ext. 235



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