



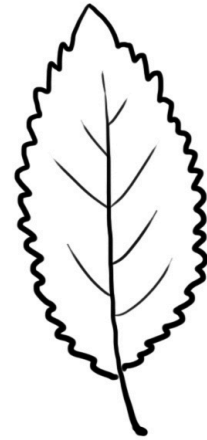
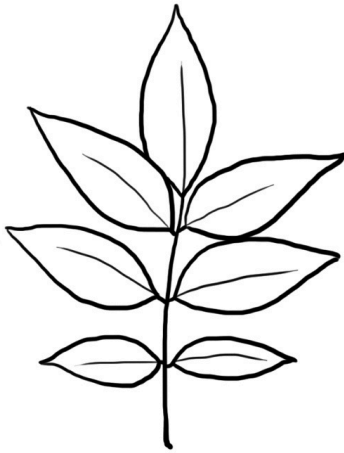
DICHOTOMOUS KEYS



WHAT IS A DICHOTOMOUS KEY?

A dichotomous key helps you figure out what something is by answering yes or no questions. Each question guides you to the next question until you reach the final answer.

TYPES OF LEAVES:



SIMPLE LEAF

COMPOUND LEAF

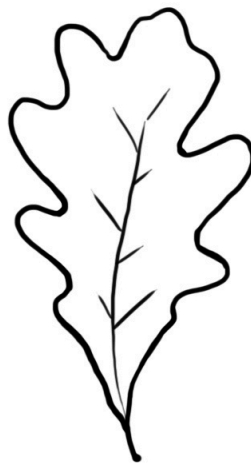
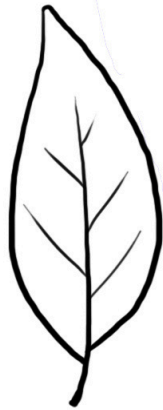
SMOOTH EDGE

TOOTHED EDGE

Simple leaf = one single leaf

Compound leaf = stem with two or more leaves attached

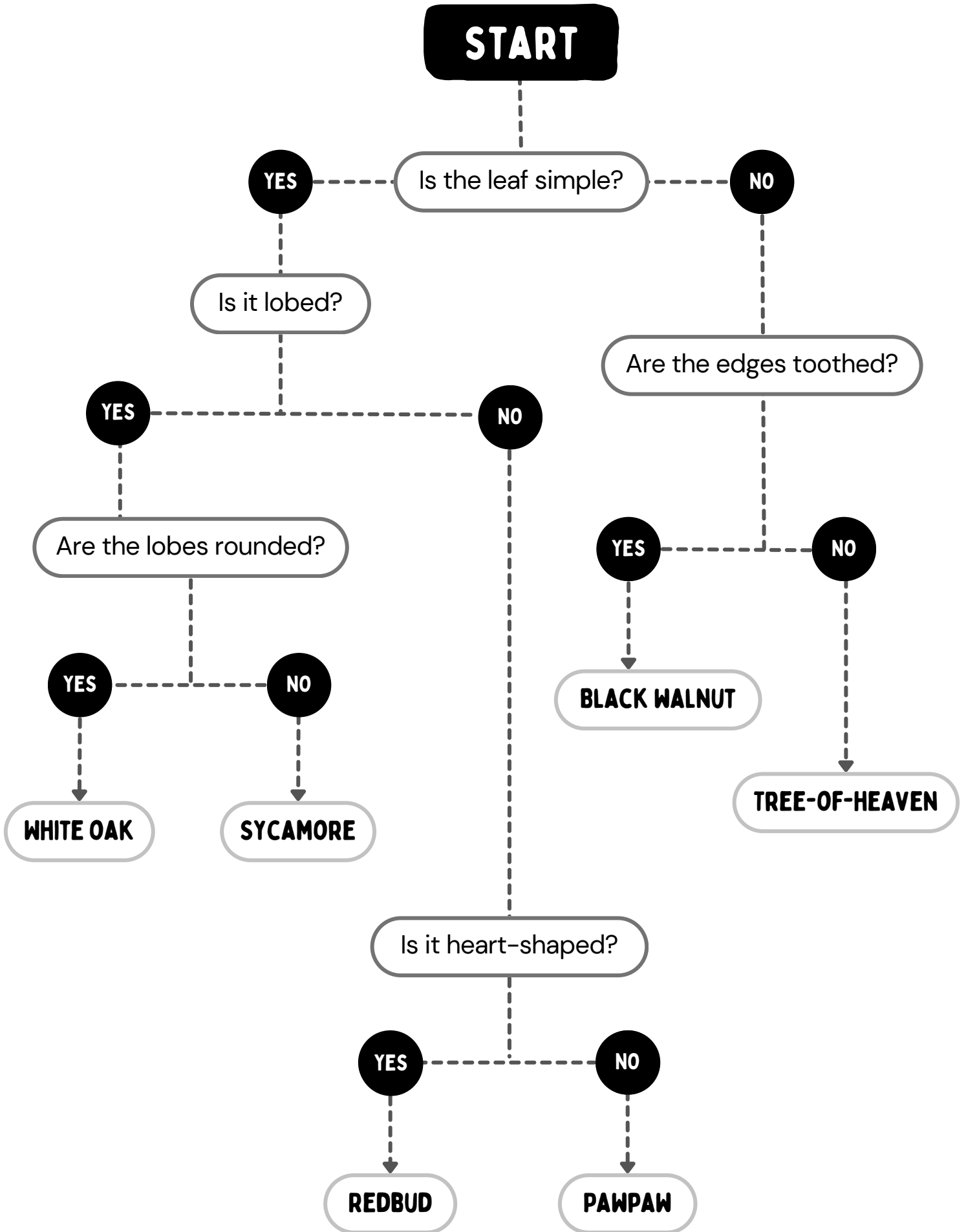
Toothed edge = edges like teeth, or a sawblade

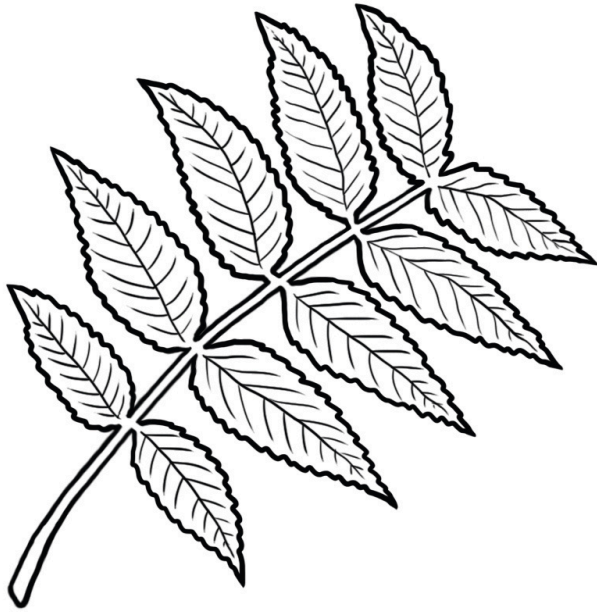


NOT LOBED

LOBED

Lobed = like fingers on a hand. Can be rounded or pointed





BLACK WALNUT

Scientific name: *Juglans nigra*

Leaf structure and shape: compound leaf, toothed edges, not lobed

Tree height: 50–90 feet

Fun fact: The roots of black walnut trees release a special juice that stops some other plants from growing nearby.



PAWPAW

Scientific name: *Asimina triloba*

Leaf structure and shape: simple leaf, smooth edges, not lobed, somewhat pear-shaped

Tree height: up to 40 feet

Fun fact: Pawpaw leaves are the only food source for caterpillars of the zebra swallowtail butterfly.



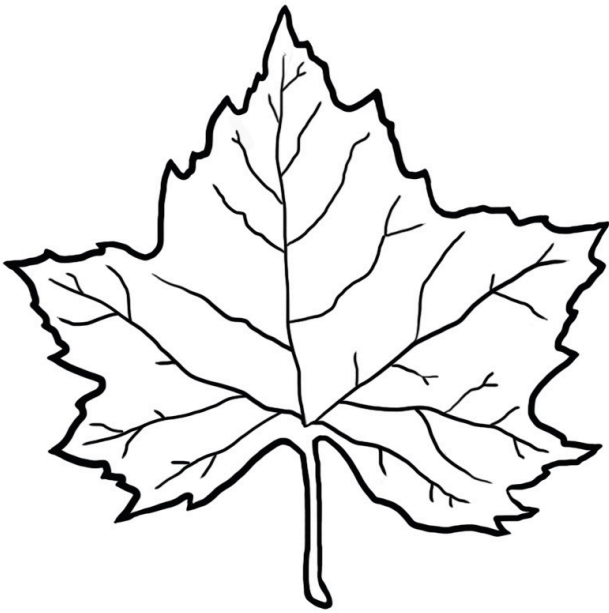
REDBUD

Scientific name: *Cercis canadensis*

Leaf structure and shape: simple leaf, smooth edges, not lobed, heart-shaped

Tree height: 15–30 feet

Fun fact: Redbud's pink flowers are a treat for bees waking from winter, and can also be sprinkled on salads for us humans!



SYCAMORE

Scientific name: *Platanus occidentalis*

Leaf structure and shape: simple leaf, toothed edges, lobed (pointed)

Tree height: 80-150 feet

Fun fact: Sycamore trees have seed pods that spin and twirl as they fall, just like little helicopters! This helps them fly to new places to grow.



TREE-OF-HEAVEN

Scientific name: *Ailanthus altissima*

Leaf structure and shape: compound leaf, smooth edges, not lobed; leaves have a strong smell when crushed, like burnt peanut butter

Tree height: 70-80 feet

Fun fact: Tree-of-Heaven is an invasive species in Virginia. Invasive species are not from here, grow super fast, and take up all the space, making it hard for other plants to grow.



WHITE OAK

Scientific name: *Quercus alba*

Leaf structure and shape: simple leaf, smooth edges, lobed (rounded)

Tree height: 80-100 feet

Fun fact: White oak trees wait 20 years before producing their first acorns, but when they do, they can make 2,000 acorns every year.