

GROW YOUR PALS PROGRAM GUIDE



THE NATIONAL FFA MENTORING PROGRAM

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LESSON 54

Preserving Leaves

Unit:
PLANT SCIENCE

PRECEPTS

- F. Continuous Improvement
- F5. Acquire new knowledge

NATIONAL STANDARDS

NS.K-4.1 Science as Inquiry



Lesson Type:
One-on-One

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a result of this lesson, the student will ...

1. Collect and preserve leaves.
2. Create an art project from the preserved leaves.





TIME

Instruction time for this lesson: **15 minutes.**
(With follow-up time in 7 days)



RESOURCES

None



TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- ✓ variety of leaves
- ✓ lightweight hammer
- ✓ large covered jar
- ✓ glycerin (available at pharmacies)
- ✓ warm water
- ✓ liquid measuring cup
- ✓ poster board or a prepared picture mat
- ✓ hot glue or craft glue
- ✓ chewing gum
- ✓ make-up
- ✓ PALS.54.AS.A – 1 per student

KEY TERMS



The following term is presented in this lesson and appears in ***bold italics***:
glycerin

** Pre-preparation: Prepare some preserved leaves BEFORE meeting with your PALS so that you can create the entire project with him or her, as well as teaching your PALS how to preserve leaves. Use the steps from Objective 1. to prepare preserved leaves seven days before meeting with your PALS. Leave the preserved leaves in the jar that you prepare so that the class can see what happened.*

INTEREST APPROACH



In my hand, I have make-up and chewing gum. Let's write down everything we know about these two items and see if they have anything in common.

Help your PALS fill out PALS.54.AS.A comparing make-up and chewing gum. Discuss how they may relate to the leaves on the table.



What is different about these two items?

What is similar about these two items?

How do they relate to the tree leaves?

How do you think we could get these leaves to last longer?

SUMMARY OF CONTENT AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVE 1. | Collect and preserve leaves.



Using a hammer, gently pound the ends of your leaf stems.

*Have your PALS measure 2 1/4 cups warm water and pour it into the jar. Measure three-fourths cup of **glycerin** and add it to the water. Screw lid on the tightly. Have your PALS shake the jar to mix the **glycerin** and water.*

Next, have your PALS place the pounded leaves into the water. Leave the jar lid off and place in a safe place for about a week.



Share the following ideas with your PALS.

- A. We are preserving these leaves to make them last longer
- B. The substance that we put into the water is also in chewing gum and in make-up
- C. This substance, **glycerin**, is a colorless, syrupy liquid obtained from fats.



What do you think **glycerin** will do to our leaves?

OBJECTIVE 2. | Create an art project from the preserved leaves.



After your PALS hypothesizes about what will happen to the leaves, bring out the preserved leaves you prepared a week ago; the leaves will be soft and pliable. Help your PALS make a picture frame with the leaves you brought with you that are already preserved. Use the poster board cut out like a frame, or the prepared mat board, and the hot glue or craft glue. While you both create a frame by overlapping the leaves, talk to your PALS about why the leaves changed.

Be sure to include the following information:



- A. The leaves absorbed the water and the **glycerin**.
- B. When the water evaporated from the jar, it changed the leaves.



What surprised you the most about how the leaves changed? What happened to the water that was in the jar?



REVIEW / SUMMARY / EVALUATION

Ask your PALS to plan for one week from that day (either together with you, or on his or her own) to remove the leaves from the jar and create another frame or a card for someone special in his or her life.



What did you learn today about **glycerin**? Allow your mentee to respond. Then using the Choral Response Moment, recite the definition together for **glycerin** given above.

What are two other products in which we may find **glycerin**? Answers may include chewing gum and make-up.

What will **glycerin** do to the leaves in the jar? **Glycerin** will cause the leave to become soft and pliable.

Great work today; we now know how to preserve leaves and make creative gifts for our family and friends.

APPLICATION



Large Group Suggestion: Work with the entire class to collect and preserve leaves to create thank-you cards for their parents.



Continued One-on-One Discussion/Activity: Take your PALS to a florist to see some flowers or leaves that were professionally preserved.

PALS.54.AS.A

Make-up and Chewing Gum

Venn Diagram

