

[Click here](#) to hear Miss Adams.

IY, SÇÁĆEL! Good day POL students and parents!

Throughout this slideshow, is written, audio, and visual information about the Bigleaf Maple, our Indigenous plant of the week. Please feel free to read and listen to all of the information in any order, and try out or skip any activities or information at your discretion!

(The following two slides are an example of a scientific writing and drawing journal template. It is completely optional, but some students who enjoy doing written journals and drawing might want to try this format, either printed out or in a personal notebook - ***we encourage students to use the photos and info in the powerpoints to do any plant journal activities indoors***)

Indigenous Plant of the Week \_\_\_\_\_ TĚ NE SNÀ

Plant name (common name):

(My name is \_\_\_\_\_)

SENĆOTĚN:

Scientific name:

My Scientific Drawing of the plant:

***Plant-sketching tips:***

**Accurate** – looks like the plant

**Big**

**Colourful**

**Detailed** – see all the small parts

**Explained** – with labels, questions, observations



## Indigenous Plant of the Week



Plant name (common name):

**SENĆOTEN:**

Scientific name:

Some Indigenous uses of the plant:



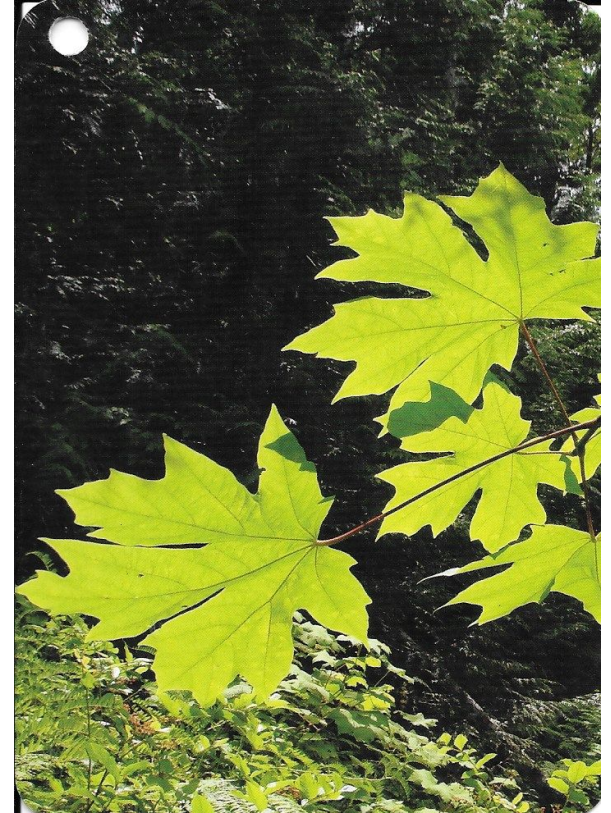
Other uses:



**Indigenous plant of the week: Bigleaf Maple**

**SENĆOŦEN: ~~TLA~~,ELĆ**

**Scientific name: Acer Macrophyllum**



# What does it look like? How to identify it:

- **Leaves:** smooth, large - leaves look just like Canada's national flag emblem :-)  
Leaves have five lobes; size is up to 30 cm across (length of one ruler).
- **Flowers:** they are greenish-yellow, bowl-shaped, and edible; the flowers are usually out in early April and eventually form maple **keys**.
- **Keys:** maple seeds are called **keys** - they fly like little helicopters!
- **Bark:** grey-brown, with shallow grooves (for older trees); usually has moss growing on it. Younger trees have green, smooth bark.
- **Licorice fern** is a common plant found growing on the maple tree.
- **Height:** can grow up to 35m tall

\*See the following slides for examples of each part of the maple tree.

STUDENT HANDOUT 2

## Leaf Patterns

When picking plants, it is important to pick the proper plant, especially if you are picking food. Sometimes plants can look like other plants that are not good to eat and might even be poisonous. Plants have particular patterns, and in order to properly identify plants, it is important to know what patterns to look for.

### Leaf Features to Look For:

#### Leaf Shape



Circular



Egg-shaped



Lanceolate



Heart-shaped



Lobed

#### Veins



Parallel



Pinnate



Palmate

#### Leaf Edges



Smooth



Toothed

#### Growth Patterns



Opposite



Alternate

# Maple leaves

**What kind of leaf pattern does the maple tree have?**

(Check your answers in the speaker notes!)

As you have noticed, leaves are green in spring and turn yellow/brown in the fall.



# Maple flowers

-size of the flowers is  
about 3mm across

-flowers are edible

\*See next slide for a  
recipe!



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Maple flowers blooming near Millstream School

Information adapted from: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/treebook/bigleafmaple.htm>

# Ever eat a maple blossom?

Did you know that the Maple blossoms/flowers are edible?

***Remember to only pick with an adult who is comfortable harvesting the plants and never harvest by yourself.***

Batter: 1 tsp - baking powder, 1 cup - flour, 1 tbs - cornstarch and enough *ice cold water* to make the batter into the same consistency of pancake batter.

Directions:

1. Whisk above ingredients together to remove lumps.
2. Add 2-3 cups of RINSED big leaf maple blossoms.
3. Stir lightly to coat the flowers with the batter.
4. Remove the blossoms and place in a hot pan with approx. 2 inches of oil.
5. Fry until golden brown on each side, place on absorbent paper towel to cool.
6. Optional: Sprinkle with salt or powdered sugar, enjoy :)





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# Maple keys

-Maple flowers become maple “keys” seeds.

On the left is a “new” maple key (maple seed), and on the right, maple keys later in the season.



Maple “keys” (often referred to as “samaras”) contain two seeds.

-seeds ripen by September/October

-they are dispersed by the wind from October-January

Information adapted from:

<http://owic.oregonstate.edu/bigleaf-maple-acer-macrophyllum>



Maple key close-up

# Maple bark

Bark on the Bigleaf Maple is a grey-brown colour.

It has shallow grooves, and is usually covered in moss.

## Did you know?

An old bigleaf maple and young bigleaf maple have slightly different bark colours? A young tree has whiteish spots covering some of the bark. An older bigleaf maple does not have these spots.



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# Licorice fern (often grows on maple trees)

Licorice Ferns are often found growing on the tree trunks of Maple Trees.

## Leaves:

The Licorice Fern is one large leaf with many **leaflets**, flat against the stem.

## Spores:

Large round bundles that are between the middle and edge of the leaf.



# Where does it grow? (Habitat)

- typically grows on coarse, gravelly, moist soils
- often near rivers, lakes, stream edges, or seepage areas
- often grows in forests mixed with other trees such as red alder, black cottonwood, Douglas fir, western red cedar, and western hemlock.

Information adapted from Pacific Northwest Plant Cards



## Traditional Indigenous uses of **TLA,ELĆ (Bigleaf Maple)**

- **Flowers:** can be harvested and eaten in early spring
- The **inner layer of bark (phloem):** can be mixed with oil and eaten
- **Leaves:** used for flavouring in pitcooks; leaves can be rubbed on young men's faces to discourage facial hair growth
- **Wood:** can be used to make paddles and spindle whorls
- Trees can be tapped for **sap**
- **Sap and burls:** WSANEC peoples treated the disease tuberculosis by mixing sap from burls with KEXMIN (another medicinal plant) to treat sores.
- **Sap** can also be combined with KEXMIN to make a tea to treat colds and flus.

# What kind of questions do you have about the Bigleaf Maple?

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Perhaps you might wonder . . .

How do you (or can you) make maple syrup from the trees?

How did the First Nations people use the wood of the Bigleaf Maple tree?

How do the “helicopters” (maple keys) work?

You can look into the following websites for more information:

<http://digitalsqewlets.ca/sqwelqwel/belongings-possessions/harvesting-recolte/maple-erable-eng.php>

<http://www.temperate-rainforest-facts.com/Temperate-Rainforest-Plant-Facts/Big-Leaf-Maple-Tree-Facts.shtml>

<https://www.treespnw.com/resources/2017/9/28/maple-seeds-natures-helicopters>

# Want to try something at home?

Click the link below to see a step by step drawing tutorial of a maple leaf!

*Materials needed:* paper and pencil (optional: colouring options)

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-vector/maple-drawing-tutorial-384765265>

The following link shows how you can create Maple leaf string art!

*Materials needed:* Cardstock paper, yarn, pencil, tapestry needle, scissors (optional: maple leaf template)

[https://www.mynourishedhome.com/string-art-maple-leaf-craft/?utm\\_source=pinterest&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=social-pug](https://www.mynourishedhome.com/string-art-maple-leaf-craft/?utm_source=pinterest&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=social-pug)