Trees Atlanta Dichotomous Tree Key
Directions: Use the key below to determine the name of the tree you are observing.

1A. Is your leaf a broadleaf (leaves that are thin, wide and flat)? ......................... If so, go to # 3
1B. Is your leaf a conifer (leaves that are needle-like or scale-like)? ..................... If so, go to #2

2A. Is your leaf needle-like and bundled in groups of 3 needles? ......................... Loblolly Pine *Pinus taeda*
2B. Is your leaf needle-like and resembles a feather? ..... If so, you have a Bald Cypress *Taxodium distichum*

3A. Is your leaf a simple leaf? (a simple leaf usually has one leaflet, a petiole, and a bud at the base of its petiole) ................................................................. If so, go to #4
3B. Is your leaf a compound leaf? (a compound leaf has two or more leaflets and a bud at the base of its petiole) ................................................................. If so, you have a Pecan *Carya illinoiinensis*

4A. Is your leaf entire/un-lobed................................................................. If so, go to #5
4B. Is your leaf lobed (when the spaces between the teeth run ¼ or more to the center of the leaf) ................................................................. If so, go to #6

5A. Is your leaf smooth/entire?................................................................. If so, you have a Dogwood *Cornus florida*
5B. Is your leaf serrated? ................................................................. If so, you have an American Elm *Ulmus americana*

6A. Is your leaf 4-lobed and resembles a cat face? ............................................. If so, you have a Tuliptree *Liriodendron tulipifera*
6B. Congrats! You’re done! Now you can walk down the street and name every tree you see. 😊

Some Common Leaf Shapes

- Conifer/Needle-Like
- Broadleaf
- Lobed Leaf
- Non-Lobed Leaf
- Feather-like
- Serrated Leaf

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