

Student Activity 5: What's the Same? What's Different?

Collect items from outside.

Plants have leaves. Look at some leaves using Flexi-Scope.

Do they all look the same? How are they the same? How are they different?



Find some bird feathers. If you have a bird feeder, you may find bird feathers nearby.

Birds molt—change all their feathers—every year, usually in the late summer. Baby birds have downy feathers. Males and female birds of the same species may have different colored feathers. Collect some feathers and look at them with Flexi-Scope.

For example, look at these two feathers. How are they the same and how are they different? The thin, hollow spine is called the shaft. Look at where the shaft is in these two feathers. In one feather, the shaft is in the center. In the other one, it is closer to the one edge. Look at the patterns in the feathers using Flexi-Scope. Write down your observations.



After you handle bird feathers, it is always a good idea to wash your hands.