

White Birch

Betula papyrifera

Ecological Facts



Birch bark is a natural firestarter because it is so thin and papery. Bark should be taken from a fallen log because taking the bark from a live tree can injure the tree and even leave permanent scars.

Commercial Uses



Birch can be used to produce plywood, veneer, furniture, firewood, popsicle sticks, toothpicks, clothespins, broom handles, sleds, snowshoes, toys, and more

Medicinal Uses



The Dene use birch to draw out the poison from wasp stings by chewing the leaves and applying them to the sting. The Cree use the outer bark to bandage burns and heavier bark is used for casts and slings.

Traditional Uses



The bark is used for making baskets, bowls, and other containers. Birch bark is also commonly used to make canoes. Many First Nations use the sap to make a sweet syrup that is similar to maple syrup.

White Birch

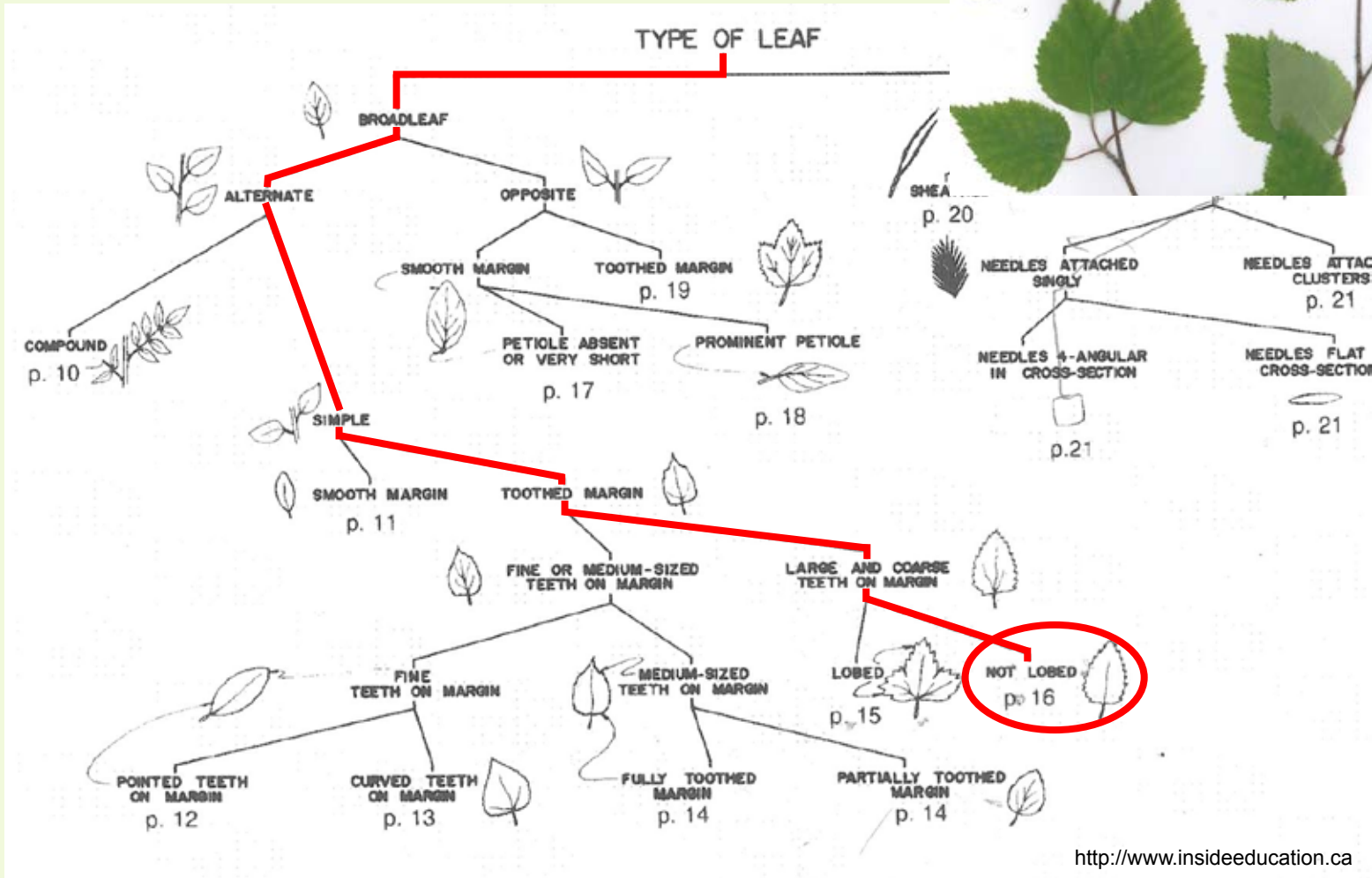


Distinguishing Features:

- Leaves are oval to diamond shaped with large coarse teeth
- White bark that peels in papery strips



Identification



Linfoot

Resources

