Goal: Students will learn that there are different kinds of lettuce.

Objectives:
- Students will use their senses to explore different kinds of lettuce.
- Students will describe similarities and differences in different types of lettuce.
- Students will create leaf rubbings to further explore the similarities and differences of the kinds of lettuce.
- Students will order lettuce leaves from smallest and largest.
- Students will sort lettuce leaves into groups based on self-defined rules.

Lesson Outline:

Engage: Introduction to Lettuce

Explore: Observing with 5 Senses / Compare and Contrast

Explain: Leaf Rubbings

Evaluate: Ordering and Sorting

Extend: Plant Lettuce
Pre-K Activities

Leaf Rubbings

Lesson Plan:

Engage:
- Teacher provides students with an assortment of lettuce leaves.
- Class discussion:
  - What are these?
  - Where have you seen them before?
  - Where do they come from?
  - What do we use them for?

Explore:
- Five Senses Exploration:
  - What do the leaves look like? (review colors, shapes, and size)
  - What do the leaves feel like?
  - What do the leaves smell like?
  - What do the leaves sound like?
  - What do the leaves taste like? (*optional taste test)
- Class discussion:
  - What is similar about the leaves?
  - What is different about the leaves?

Explain:
- Teacher models a leaf rubbing by placing it under a piece of paper and rubbing it with a crayon. Then teacher identifies the basic parts of a leaf (steam, blade, veins, tip).
- Students are guided in completing their own leaf rubbings and identifying the basic parts of a leaf.

Evaluate:
- Teacher asks students individually to order their leaves from smallest to largest.
- Teacher asks students individually to sort their leaves into groups. (Responses may vary but teacher should inquire about the “rules” for each group, asking why some items fit into a group and others don’t.)

Extend:
- Plant lettuce in a container garden.
- Conduct a taste test with different types of lettuce.
Types of Leaves: Try to have leaves of various shapes, sizes, and colors for students to explore. Some types of leaves you could use include:

- Arugula
- Baby Chard
- Baby Kale
- Oakleaf Lettuce
- Simpson Lettuce
- Spinach
- Other “Leaf”
  Lettuce or Lettuce Mix