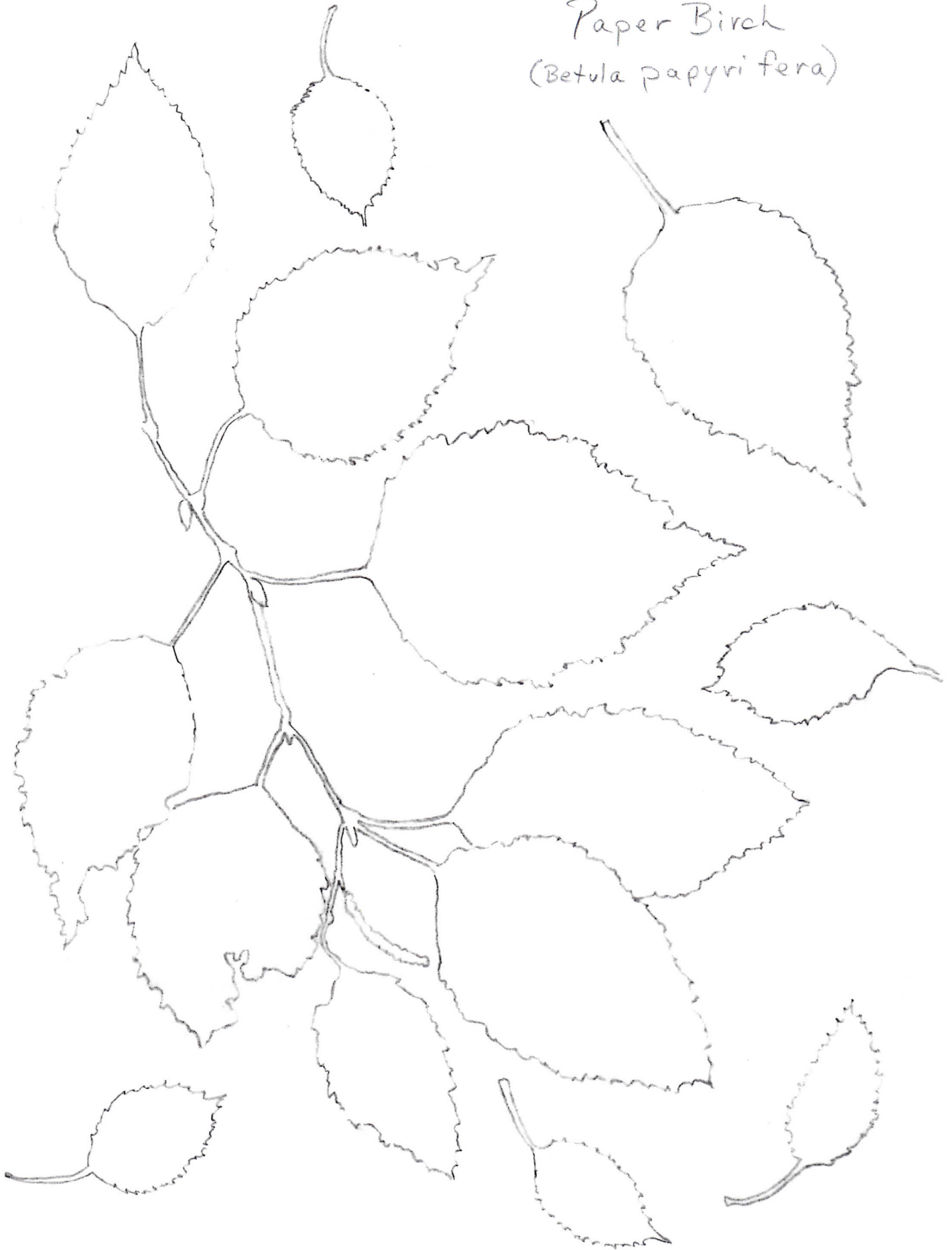


Paper Birch
(*Betula papyrifera*)



Paper Birch & Atmosphere Coloring and Design Sheet

This is a coloring and design sheet for you to imagine the particles in the atmosphere and the process of photosynthesis. The leaves are from the paper birch tree, a tree with beautiful white peeling bark that looks a little like paper.

You may have seen my art installation, "When a Tree Thrives," at Garver Feed Mill in Madison. That is how I imagined the atmosphere and photosynthesis. I'm curious about how you see things.

Imagine that you can see the invisible particles in the Earth's atmosphere – the air we breathe. Most of the atmosphere is nitrogen and oxygen (about 99%) The other 1% includes water vapor, carbon dioxide, helium, neon, and other gases. What do you think these particles in the atmosphere look like? What does photosynthesis look like? Do you imagine patterns?

Draw and color your ideas on the leaves and in the spaces in between. What color would the particles be? What shapes? Do you want to make a pattern? Anything you imagine is ok – there is not a right way to draw these.

Like other trees, the paper birch cleans the atmosphere. Trees inhale and exhale kind of like people do. Through photosynthesis, trees take CO₂ (carbon dioxide) from the air, and turn it into leaves, branches, roots, and tree trunks. This helps slow the warming of the earth that causes climate change.

Share your work and learn more

I would love to see your Paper Birch leaves with your imagined atmosphere drawn and colored!

Email a photo to me at k@studioksr.com and with your permission I will put it on a special page on my website to share your images with others concerned about climate change!

See your image and other interpretations of this design at this link:
www.studioksr.com/climate/Leaves

PS: you can download more coloring sheets there too!

For more information about photosynthesis and climate change: www.studioksr.com/climate

To see my artwork that explores forests, water, and environmental issues through painting, drawing, and installation: www.studioksr.com

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