Question: How can herbarium specimens be used to observe, categorize, and identify species of *Acer* (maples)?

At your table: A stack of 30 herbarium specimens from 3 species in the genus *Acer* as well as 4 specimens of unknown identity.

1. **Observe and sort the 30 mixed specimens into 3 groups.**
   a. What criteria did you use for sorting? Were any specimens particularly challenging to place? If so, why?

   b. On a 1 to 10 scale (1 being not at all confident and 10 being certain), how confident are you that over ~90% of your specimens are sorted correctly?

2. **Remove the cards blocking the names on the 30 specimens you just sorted.**
   a. How accurate was your sorting? Was this the result you expected?

   b. Would you change your sorting criteria next time? If so, how?

3. **Out of your 4 unknown specimens, two of them are from your set of 30, one is not from your set of 30, and one of them is an *Acer* lookalike. Observe your specimens and identify which is which.**
   a. Which two specimens are from your set of 30?

   b. Which specimen isn't *Acer* at all? How do you know?

   c. One of the other tables has a set of 30 with the remaining unknown *Acer*. Which species is it?