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?