

Magnifying Leaves

Discovery Hunt



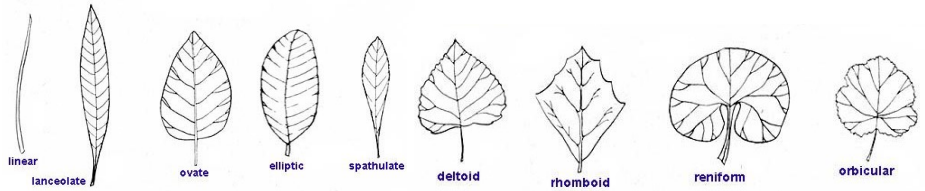
What does a Leaf do?	
	<p><u>Capture Sunlight</u></p> <p>Leaves help plants make food through a process called Photosynthesis. They capture sunlight using Chlorophyll– the chemical that makes them green. The sunlight is converted into a sugar called glucose, that plants use as energy.</p> <p>Leaves change color when they begin to lose their chlorophyll, revealing other colors beneath the green.</p> <p>Use your magnifying lens to look carefully at the leaf colors. How many can you find? You can color, or list them, in the box.</p>
	<p><u>Respiration</u></p> <p>Leaves help the plant “breathe”. Plants need CO₂ (the gas that we exhale when we breathe) and they release Oxygen (which we inhale). Leaves help control respiration. They have tiny pores called stomata that open and close to help gas exchange. Most stomata are located on the underside of the leaf, to help reduce water loss.</p> <p>Use your magnifying lens to closely examine the back and front of the leaf. How do they look or feel different? You can write or draw some of these differences in the box.</p>
	<p><u>Transport Energy</u></p> <p>Leaves make energy for the plant, but that energy needs to be distributed to the rest of the plant. The lines on the leaves are called veins and they carry energy away from the leaves as well as bring water and nutrients to the leaves.</p> <p>Use your magnifying lens to investigate the leaf veins. What direction are they facing? Do they make a pattern? Draw what you see.</p>
	<p><u>Provide Habitat-</u></p> <p>Leaves can provide food and shelter for other living things-especially insects. We can find evidence of other creatures by examining the leaves. Holes in the leaves tell us that an insect has been feeding on it, bumps or galls could indicate that an insect has laid in the leaf. Some insects lay eggs or create cocoons under leaves.</p> <p>What critter evidence can you find with your magnifying lens? Draw it in the box.</p>

Leaf Scavenger Hunt

The closer you look at leaves them more differences you will see. Below are some categories and characteristics that help tell leaves apart. Try to find examples of as many as you can!

Shape

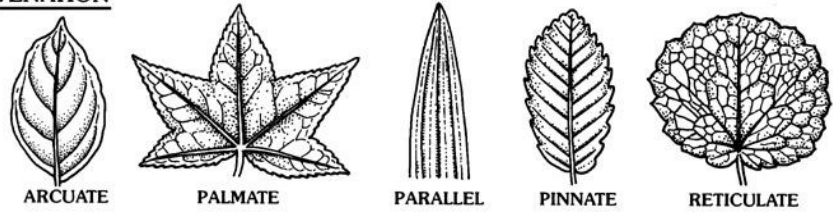
Leaves come in many different shapes. Here are just a few. How many of the m can you find?



Venation

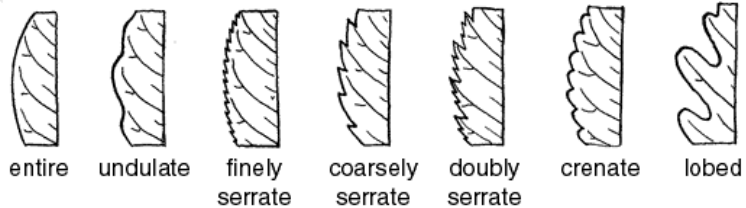
Venation is the pattern of veins on a leaf. Some leaves have veins that run parallel and others having branching veins. See which of these variations you can find.

VENATION



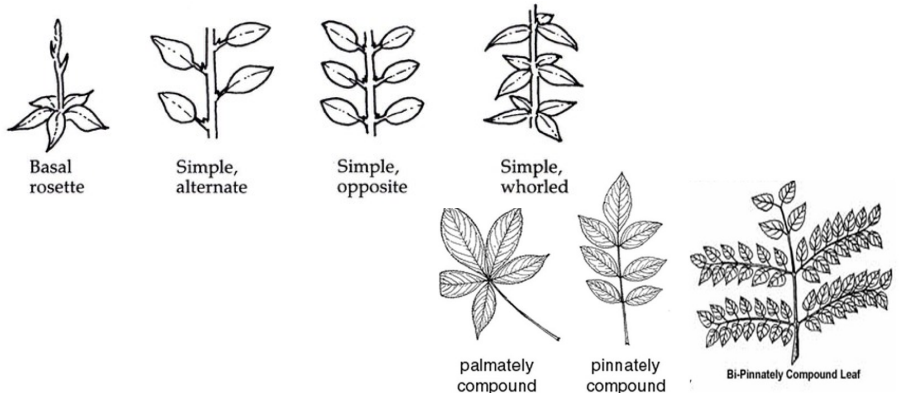
Margin

The edge of the leaf is called the margin. It can be smooth, bumpy, or have "teeth", also called serrations.



Arrangement

Leaves can be simple or compound. Simple leaves are attached directly to a stem. Compound leaves are divided into "leaflets" that are all attached to a middle vein, called a rachis. Both Simple and compound leaves can be arranged in several ways.



Can you find these common leaves?

