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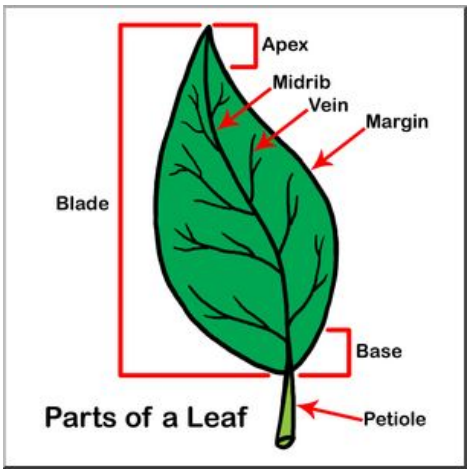
Parts of a Leaf



This activity is to help you discover the parts of a leaf while getting you outside and being aware of the different plants around where you live. The leaf of the plant is what helps aid the process of photosynthesis by taking in Carbon Dioxide from the air and absorbing the light from the sun. The main parts of the leaf include the Blade, midrib, veins, petiole and stomata.

The **blade** is the flat part of the leaf from the **apex** (tip) to the **base** (where the petiole begins). The **petiole** is what connects the leaf to the rest of the plant (often called the stem of the plant). The petiole is needed in order to bring water and other nutrients from the rest of the plant to the blade of the leaf. The **midrib** is the largest vein and is directly attached to the petiole and goes straight through from the base of the leaf to the apex. There are other **veins** that come off the midrib out to the edges of the leaf. They will branch off in many different sizes and directions to make sure water can get to all parts of the leaf. The midrib and veins also provide shape and support to the leaf. The **stomata** are small openings along the leaf that are not visible to the human eye. They allow for the leaf to expel oxygen that it produces and intake carbon dioxide that it needs for food throughout photosynthesis.

Materials

- Crayons or colored pencils
- Paper
- Leaves from outside

Instructions

1. Take some time on a beautiful day and go outside and pick some leaves. Make sure to get all kinds. Pick from different types of plants, large leaves, small leaves, trees and bushes.
2. Once you collect some leaves, place them upside down on a flat surface.
3. Place a sheet of paper on top.
4. Use your crayons and colored pencils to color over the leaf lightly so the impressions of the leaf are mimicked on the paper.
5. See if you can identify and label the different parts of the leaf you colored.

Additional information

Structure of a leaf- YouTube Video MBD Alchemie

Leaves | Boundless Biology- in depth leaf structure educational materials

Photosynthesis pic from https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9197158/faster-plant-growth-through-more-efficient-photosynthesis/
Definitions Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=838_4cVInsA
Leaf picture: https://www.abcteach.com/documents/clip-art-leaf-parts-color-labeled-i-abcteachcom-33232