

BE A LEAF DETECTIVE



DETECTIVE'S NOTES

- Entire edges
- Brown colour
- Dry and crackly
- Sounds crunchy
- Lots of veins
- Has a stalk
- Simple, not compound
- Looks like this:



MATERIALS NEEDED

- A selection of leaves
- Pencils, coloured pencils and/or crayons
- Printed worksheets (next few pages)
- Magnifying glass optional!

STEPS

Pick your favourite leaf and then complete the activities on the following pages to learn more about it!

DID YOU
KNOW?

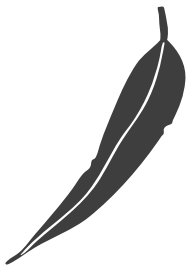
Analysing and identifying leaves is part of what professional botanists do. Plant identification is crucial for ecological conservation, helping us to control invasive species and diseases, monitor plant populations and understand the needs of endangered species. So if you enjoy being a leaf detective, you might make a good botanist!



DETECTIVE'S NOTES

SIZE

What size is your leaf?



SMALL ☐



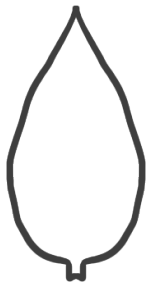
MEDIUM ☐



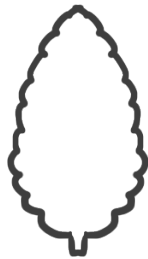
LARGE ☐

SHAPE

Does your leaf have any of these edges?



ENTIRE ☐



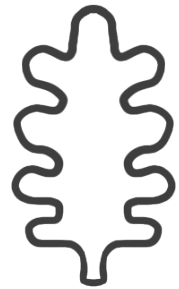
CRENATE ☐



SERRATE ☐



UNDULATE ☐



LOBED ☐

If your leaf doesn't have any of these edges, draw a picture of what the edge of your leaf looks like:



DETECTIVE'S NOTES

COLOUR

What colour is your leaf?

GREEN ☐

BROWN ☐

ORANGE ☐

YELLOW ☐

RED ☐

If your leaf isn't any of these, what colour is it? _____

TEXTURE

What does your leaf feel like? (tick all that apply)

SOFT ☐

DRY ☐

SMOOTH ☐

SPIKY ☐

THICK ☐

THIN ☐

MOIST ☐

WAXY ☐

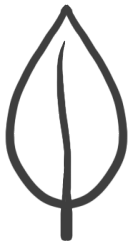
HAIRY ☐

ROUGH ☐

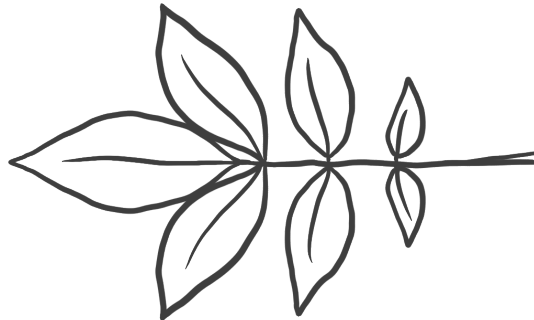
Is there any other way you would describe the texture? _____

TYPE

Is your leaf simple or compound?



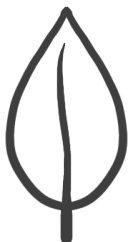
SIMPLE ☐



COMPOUND ☐

STALK

Does your leaf have a leafstalk (petiole)?



LEAFSTALK ☐



NO LEAFSTALK ☐



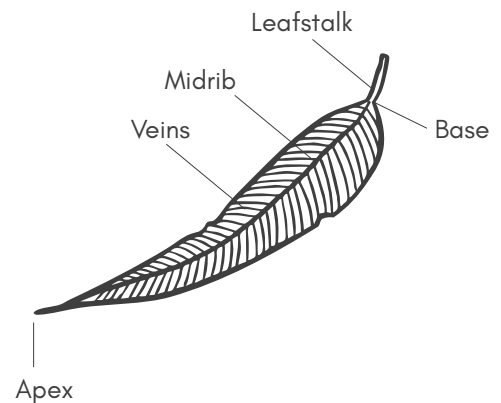
DETECTIVE'S NOTES

DRAWING

Draw or trace around your leaf here. When you are finished, see if you can label your leaf's parts using the guide below.

PARTS

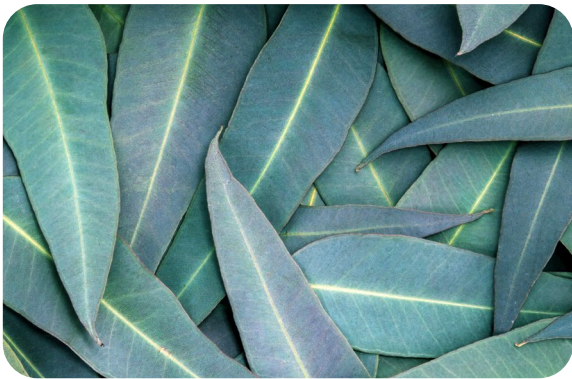
- Midrib** The central vein that goes down the middle of the leaf
- Veins** The smaller parts that branch out from the central midrib
- Apex** The tip or the point on the top of a leaf
- Leafstalk** The stem of your leaf (also known as the petiole)
- Base** The part where the leafstalk (petiole) joins the rest of the leaf





AUSTRALIAN LEAVES

Here are some examples of the amazing variety of leaves that Australian native plants can have. **Did you pick any of these leaves?**



Eucalyptus leaves



Banksia leaves



Acacia (wattle) leaves



Grevillea leaves



Bottlebrush leaves



Waratah leaves