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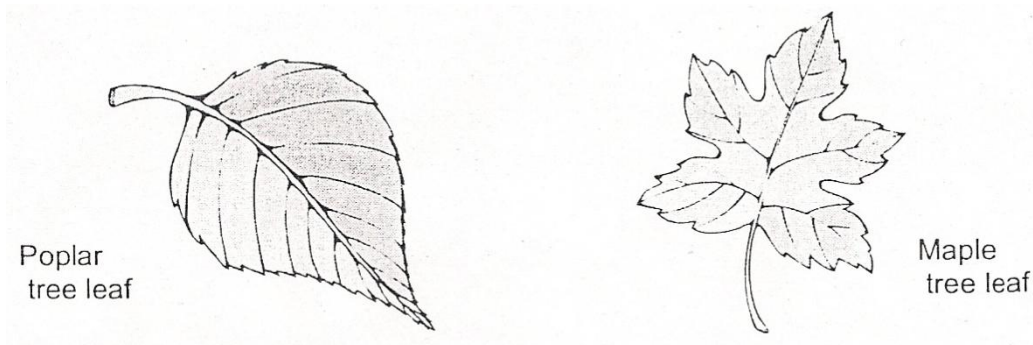
LEAF TYPES

Plants grow and change throughout their life, just as people do. However, some of the parts of the plant do not change. An example is the leaves. The leaves of a “baby” tree have the same shape as the leaves of a mature tree.

Leaves come in many shapes and sizes. This allows for plants to be classified by the type of leaf that they have. There are many different characteristics of leaves that can be looked at. In grade 3 we will focus on the makeup of the leaf – there are *simple leaves* and *compound leaves*.

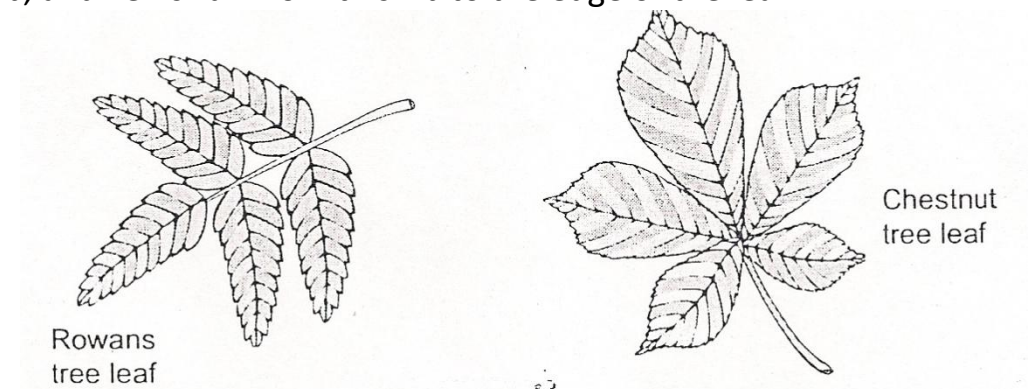
Simple Leaves

Simple leaves have one leaf blade with a rib and veins that flow up through the leaf.



Compound Leaves

Compound leaves are made up of many little leaves. They are attached to one main rib, and veins run from this rib to the edge of the leaf.



1. Why do you think leaves are used to identify and group different types of plants?

2. In which two seasons in Canada could it be difficult to identify some plants? Explain at least one reason why for each of the two seasons.

3. Can you think of any other parts of the plant that stay the same, whether the plant is young or old?

4. Sort the leaves below by indicating whether they are simple or compound.

