



# Leaves and ribs

## Notes for Parents and Carers

You and your child will need green leaves for this activity. Evergreen leaves or flower leaves will do, but dead brown leaves are not easy to use. Your child has to think about which is the 'sunny side' of the leaf.

(Usually it is shinier than the underneath side, but your child could go back and check which is the top side if they have forgotten.)

The ribs of a leaf are usually underneath it. They make the leaf stiff so that it can be held open to receive sunlight.

**See if your child can talk about the ribs making the leaf strong.**



Science and Technology

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Leaves and ribs

## You will need:

scissors  
kitchen foil  
sellotape

- ~ Go on a collecting expedition.
- ~ Get 5 green leaves from a different tree, bush or plant.



**Be careful not to damage the trees.**

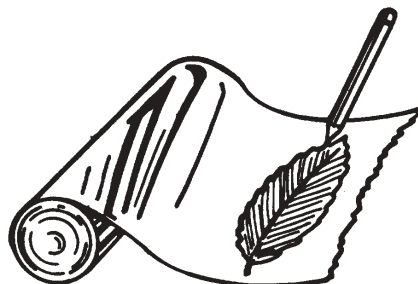
- ~ Feel one leaf carefully on both sides.

The top side feels

The underneath side feels

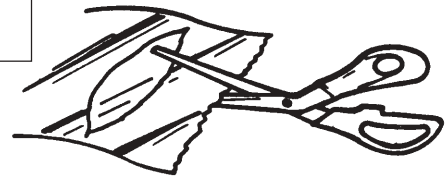
Which side has the hard rib?

- ~ Trace round one leaf twice.



~ Cut out the 2 leaves.

Are your leaves floppy?



~ Now make a "rib" for 1 leaf.

(You could use: a flower stalk, a drinking straw, spaghetti or a thin strip of card).



~ Cut the "rib" to the right length.

~ Fix it onto your foil leaf with sellotape.

Which leaf is floppy?



~ Now do the same with another leaf.

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Why do leaves have ribs?

Feel your own ribs. Why do we have ribs?

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Use this space to draw and write about what you have done.

**Bring your foil leaves back to school.**