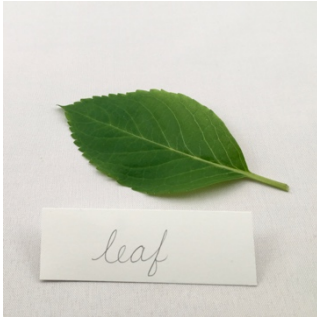
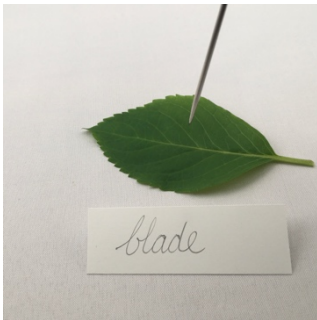


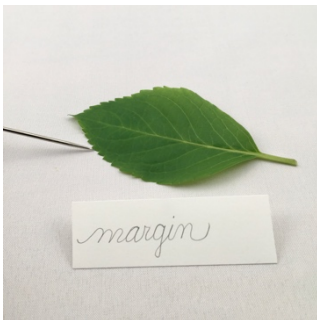
Introduction to the Parts of a Leaf



The **leaf** is the flat, green part of a plant that grows out of the stem. The job of the leaf is to make food for the plant. Leaves come in many shapes and sizes.



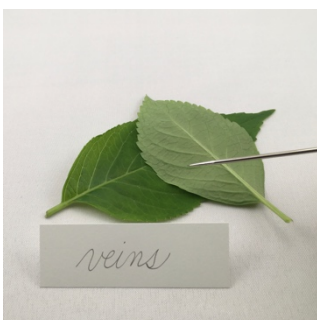
The **blade** is the broad, flat portion of the leaf where the food is made through a process called photosynthesis. The blade is also called the lamina.



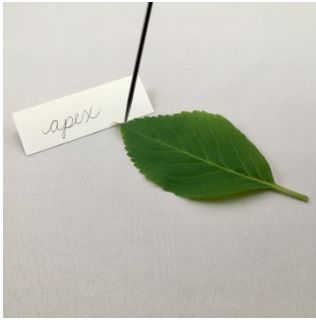
The **margin** is the boundary or edge of the leaf. Margins can be smooth, toothed, lobed, or parted.



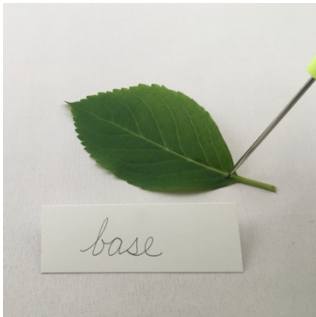
The **midrib** is the main vein of the leaf. It extends from the apex to the base of the leaf.



The **veins** support the blade of the leaf. They carry water from the plant to the leaf, and carry food from the leaf back to the plant.



The **apex** is the tip of the leaf. It can be rounded or long and pointed.



The **base** is bottom-most part of the leaf. This is where the leaf connects to the stem.



The **petiole** is a stalk that attaches a leaf to the plant stem. It is flexible and supports the leaf so that it is not damaged by wind or rain.