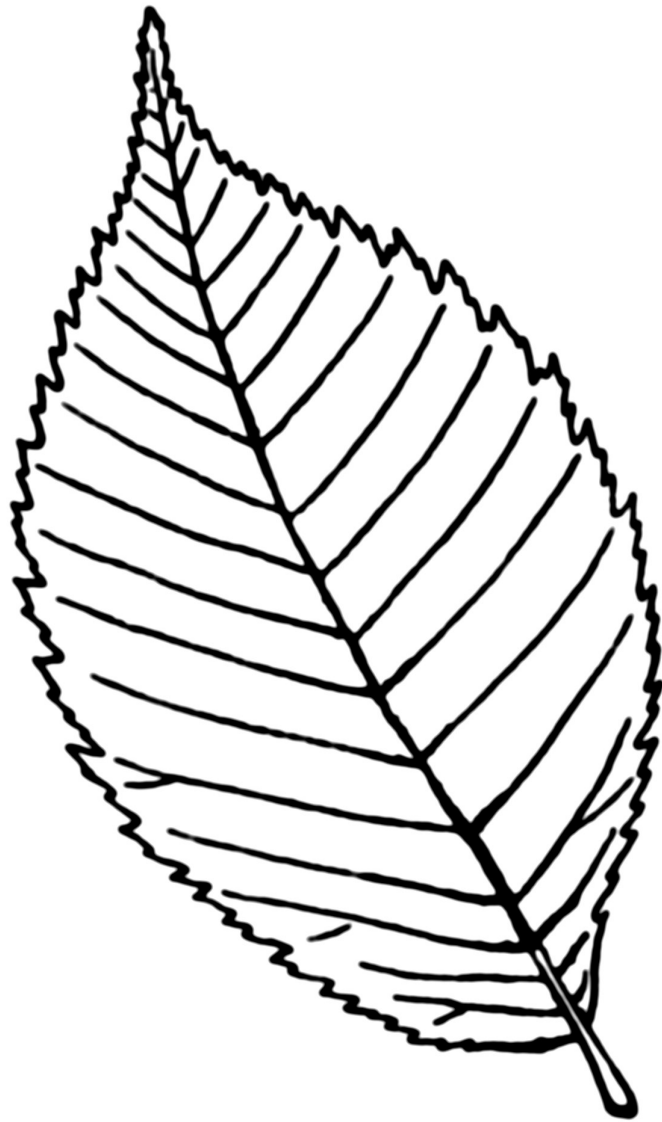


# Leaf Cards



THE BIRMINGHAM  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS  
TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

# Brief Description of Activity

The leaf cards on the following two pages can be copied by visiting teachers to support self-guided sessions at the Gardens. The leaves can be used to ask the children to find and match the leaf pictures to the actual leaves in the Tropical Greenhouse.

Children might enjoy cutting out the leaves back in the classroom before the visit which would also get the children used to the various shapes of the leaves that will be encountered during their visit to the Gardens.

In addition to the children cutting out the leaves, teachers might wish to laminate the leaves and fix them together with treasury tags to form a leaf swatch.

An extension of this work is to look at a variety of ways in which leaves have adapted to live in the tropical rainforest. Life in the tropical rainforest is difficult because all the plants are fighting to get enough resources including sunlight and water.



**Large** leaves catch lots of sunlight.

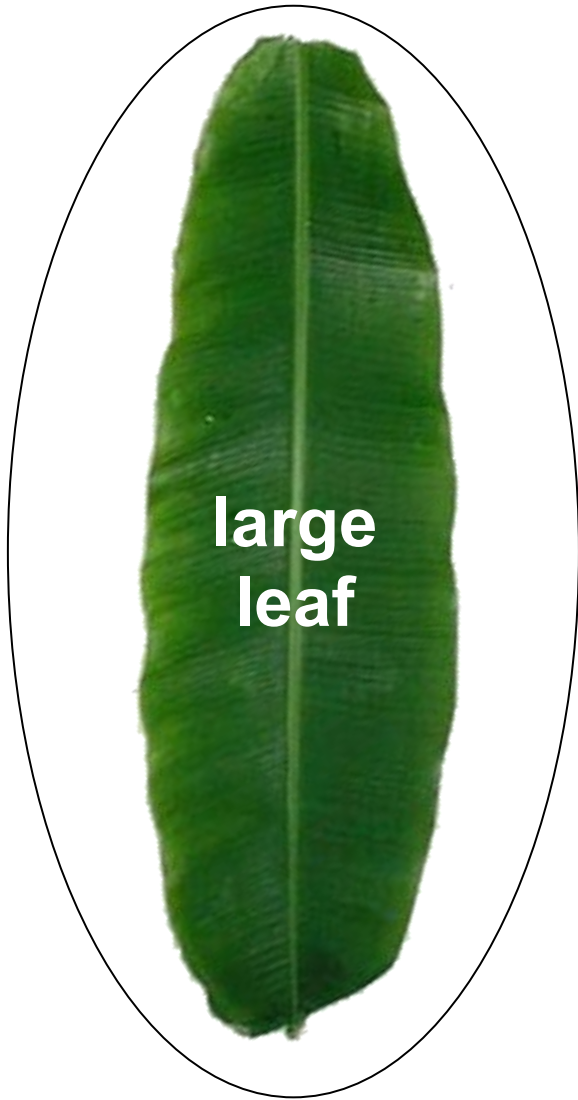
**Coloured** leaves absorb more sunlight.

Leaves with **Holes** let the sunlight through to the plant's lower leaves.

A leaf with a **drip tip** points water down towards the roots.

**Climbers** grow upwards to reach the sunlight.

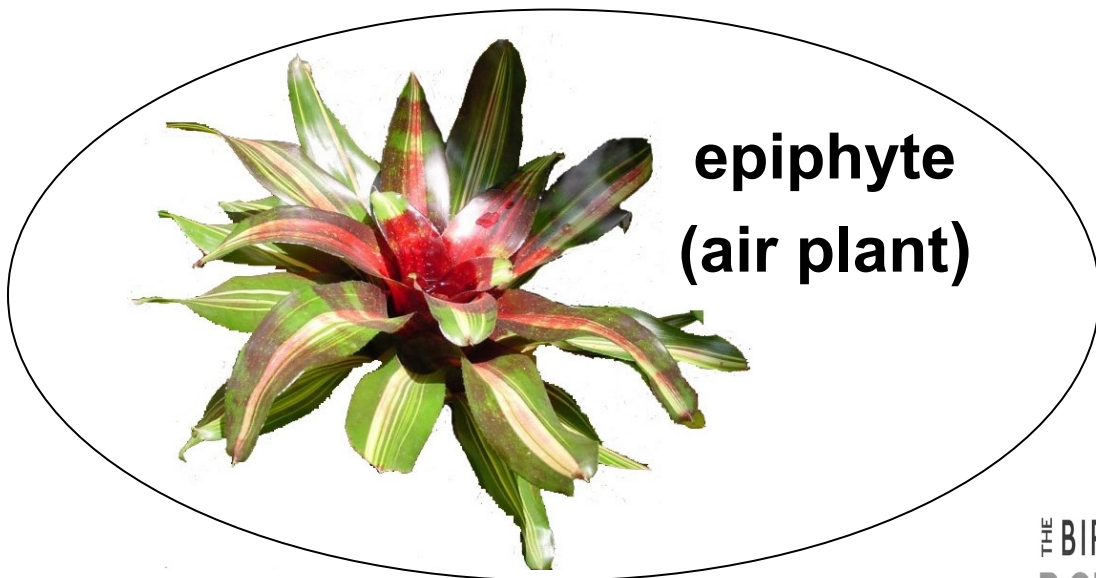
An **epiphyte** (or **air plant**) grows high on other plants to be nearer the sun and catches water at the base of the leaves.



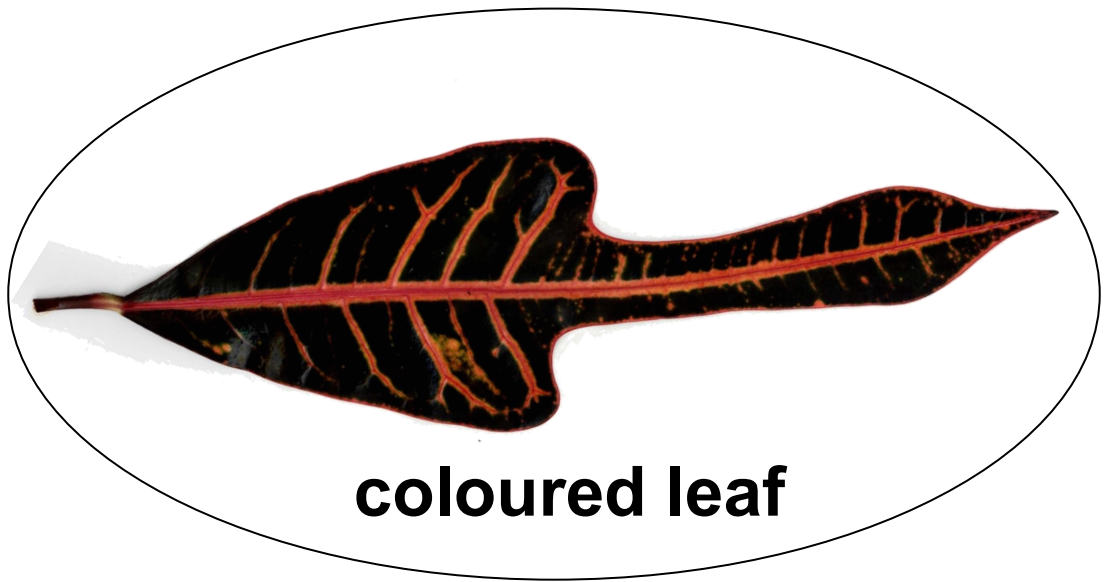
**large  
leaf**



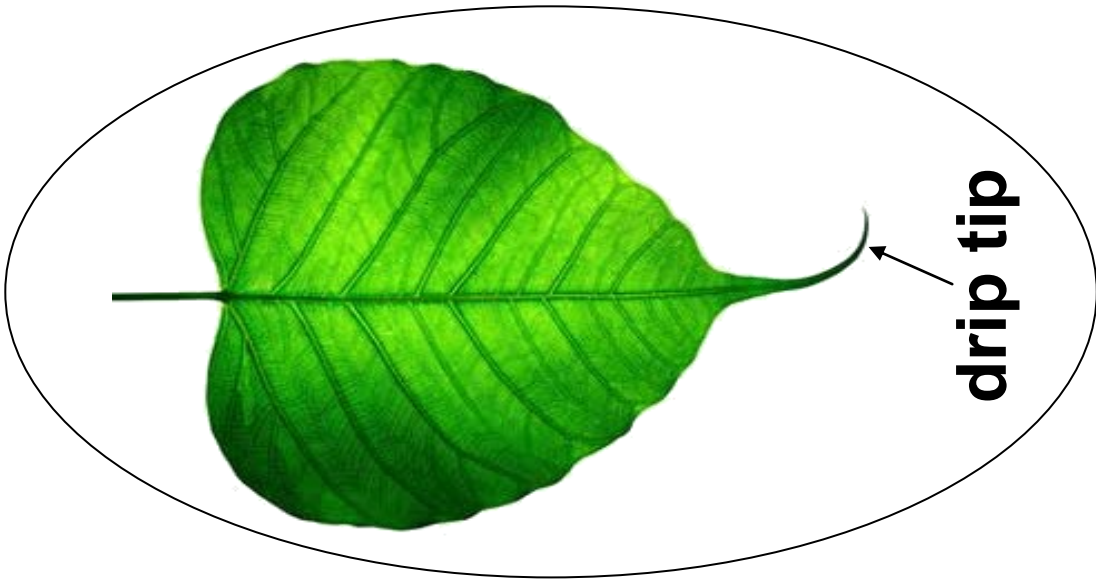
**climber**



**epiphyte  
(air plant)**



**coloured leaf**



**drip tip**



**holey  
leaf**