

MONGABAY

LEAVES

LEVELED READER



MO CHEN & ZOE BATES

MONGABAY.ORG

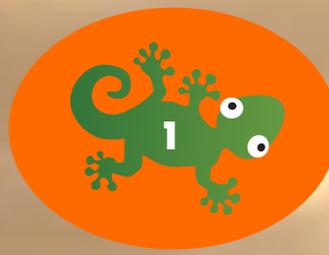
LEAVES LEVELED READER



Must be read in landscape orientation only

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Plants are alive, just like you and me.
Plants need food to live.
But they can't move like us. So what do they do?



Plants also don't have mouths.

Instead of eating, plants make their own food. Plants have leaves that can turn sunlight and water into **sugar**, which they use for food.





The main flat part of a leaf is called the **blade**.

The sugar made in the leaf goes to the rest of the plant through the **veins**.

The **petiole** attaches the leaf to the stem of the plant.

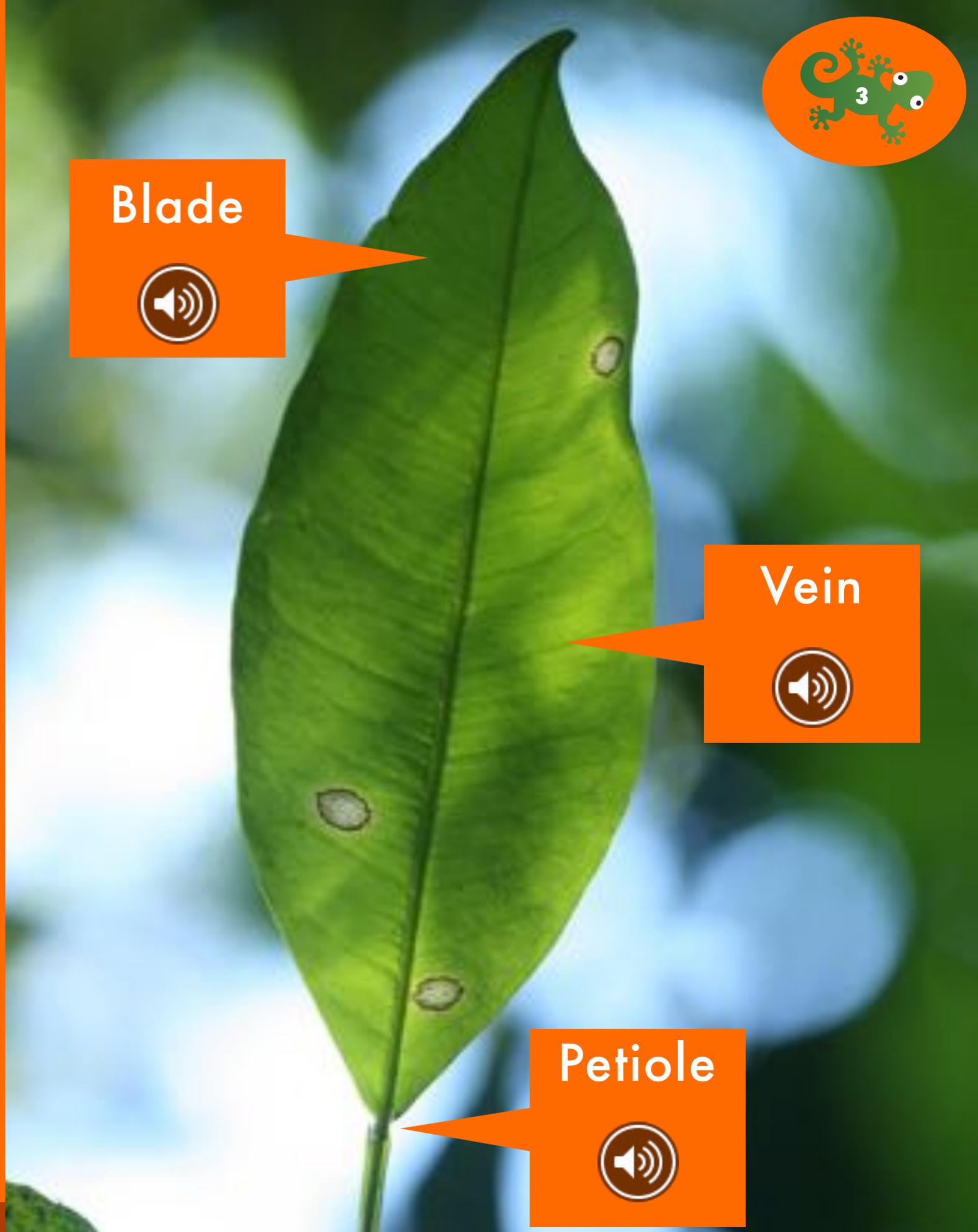
Blade



Vein



Petiole





Some leaves are big and round so each leaf can get a lot of sunlight.



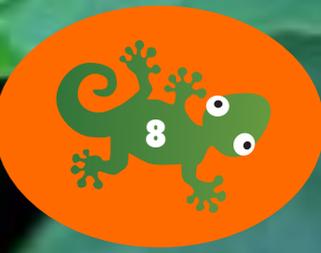
Some leaves are long and skinny
So the plant needs a lot of them.



Some leaves are smooth and some leaves are bumpy.



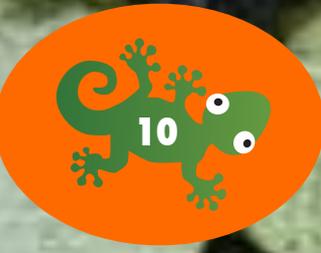
Some leaves even twist and turn into different shapes.



Take a look at these. If you think they are flowers,
you are wrong! These are leaves too!



Leaves may come in all shapes, colors, and sizes, but they all help the plant get sunlight.



Even if plants are growing in water they still need sunlight to make food.

This plant has **adapted** to life in the water. It has large round leaves that can float.

Even though the rest of the plant is underwater, its leaves can still get sunlight.





A lot of animals and insects eat leaves. Without leaves, plants can't turn sunlight into sugar and they can't make any food!

Plants must **adapt** to protect their leaves. For example, this plant has sharp spikes on its branches.

How will this protect the leaves?





Some plants even have sharp leaves
to scare away animals!



Sunlight is very important to all plants. They need to get as much of it as possible. In fact, plants have adapted to do just that.



In a rainforest, there are a lot of different plants.
Some are really tall. Some are really short.



Have you ever seen a really tall tree?
Some trees grow to be hundreds of feet tall!
This makes it easy for the leaves at the top
to get all the sunlight they need.



When there are many tall trees around, they can block the sunlight.

Plants on the shady forest floor need the help of other plants.

Can you tell how this plant has adapted to reach the sunlight above?

This plant is climbing a tree so it can reach the sunlight above.





This small plant is growing on a tree so it can be closer to the sunlight. What do you think would happen if it was growing on the ground?



In the winter, some plants store the food they need and go to sleep. While the plant is resting, the leaves change color and fall off because they are not needed.



Some, plants need more than just sunlight to make food. These plants also need bugs. This plant has special leaves that **attract** bugs and trap them inside.



This plant also has special leaves.

Can you guess how they help the plant trap bugs?

These leaves form cups that hold a sweet water to trick bugs into falling inside.





Now that you've read about how special and important leaves are, go take a look for yourself.

Take a trip to the park, the beach, the forest, or even your yard!

You may be surprised by all the different leaves you'll find!



Leaves

Second Grade

Academic vocabulary

adapt, animals, attract, blade, bumpy, color, example, flowers, ground, hundreds, insects, leaves, petiole, protect, rainforest, smooth, spikes, sugar, sunlight, trap, underwater, vein

Reading Recovery 18

DRA 18

Second Grade Science Standards 2-LS2-1. Plants depend on sunlight and water to grow

Guiding Questions:

- Do plants need food?
- Where do plants get food?
- How do leaves help plants?



ADAPT

Change or adjust to new conditions

Related Glossary Terms

Adapted

Index

Find Term

Chapter 12 - Protecting leaves

ADAPTED

A plant that has changed or adjusted to its surroundings.

Related Glossary Terms

Adapt

Index

Find Term

Chapter 11 - Plants in water

ATTRACT

Tempt a bug to come closer

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

Index

Find Term

Chapter 20 - Plants eat bugs.

SUGAR

A source of energy made by plants using sunlight and water

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

Index

Find Term

Chapter 3 - Sunlight becomes food