

Significant Trees Vocabulary Sheet



Alternate leaves

Alternate leaves are arranged asymmetrically along the stem. Alternate leaves do not have a matching partner attached on the opposite side of the stem.

Canopy

The forest canopy is the upper layer or habitat zone, formed by mature tree crowns and including other wildlife like birds or squirrels.

Catkin

A catkin is a long, hanging cluster of flowers that lack petals. Catkins are pollinated by the wind.



Compound Leaf

A compound leaf has several smaller leaves, called leaflets, attached to a single stem. Compound leaves can be palmate or pinnate.

Crown

The top of a tree, including the branches and leaves.

Furrowed

Furrowed bark has ruts and cracks on the surface that creates a rough exterior.



Leaflet

Leaflets look like miniature leaves. However, leaflets are the smaller leaf-like sections that make up compound leaves.



Lobed Leaf

Lobed leaves are simple leaves with thick, finger-like divisions that do not reach the center of the leaf.



Opposite Leaves

Opposite leaves are arranged symmetrically on the stem. Each leaf or leaflet has another leaf or leaflet directly across from it on the center stem.



Palmate Leaf

A palmate leaf is a simple or compound leaf that has one central point that all leaf parts are attached to. Palmate leaves are shaped like the palm of a hand.



Pinnate Leaf

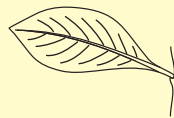
A pinnate leaf is a compound leaf that has many smaller leaflets surrounding a single stem. Pinnate leaves can be even or odd depending on how many smaller leaflets they have on a stem.

Prescribed Burn

Forest managers set fires on purpose at times when they are not likely to get out of control. Prescribed fire is a management tool to clear out the understory, improve habitat for wildlife, and promote the growth of some trees and plants, like white oak.

Sapling

A sapling is a young tree that is still relatively short and has a thin trunk. Saplings can grow into the large trees found in these materials.



Simple Leaf

A simple leaf has a single leaf on a stem. That leaf can be lobed, but is not divided into leaflets.

Thinning

Thinning trees is a forest management technique. Thinning decreases competition to let remaining trees have more sunlight, water, and soil nutrition.



Toothed Leaf

A toothed leaf has jagged edges that can vary from very small razor-like edges to larger jagged boundaries. Most toothed leaves are simple leaves.

Understory

The understory refers to the layer of smaller trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants like flowers and ferns that grow beneath the taller layer of the forest. Understory plants are more tolerant of shade and generally remain short regardless of age.

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