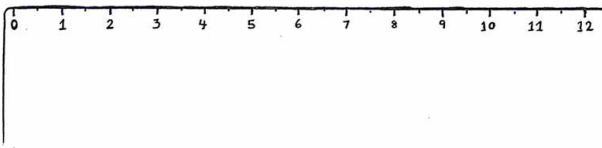
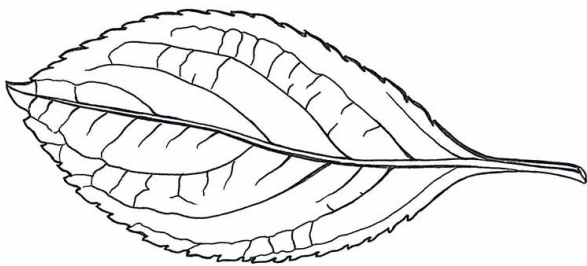


## Drawing leaves from observation

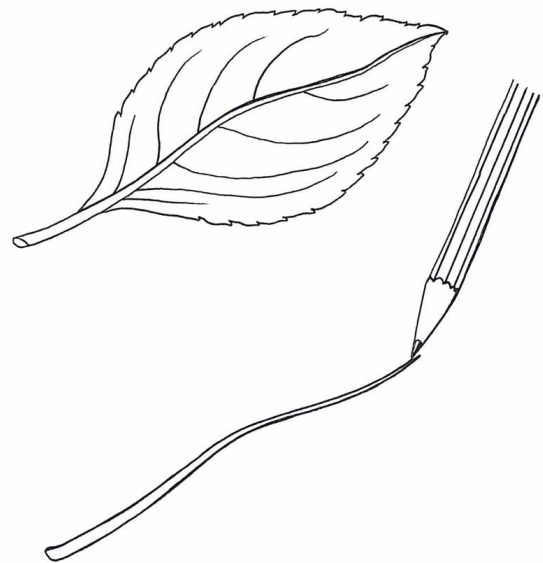
### 1. Measure your leaf

Measure the widest part of the width of the leaf and the length. You will draw your leaf 'life-size' – the size it is in real life, so can use these measurements to check and plan your drawing.



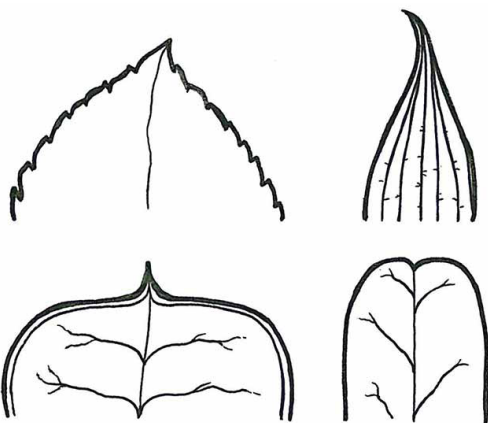
### 2. Draw the midrib

Look at the biggest, middle vein the 'mid-rib'. How does it go through the leaf? Does it go right to the tip or does it disappear? Is it raised or sunken? Draw this midrib first. This might seem strange but can help you draw your leaf right!



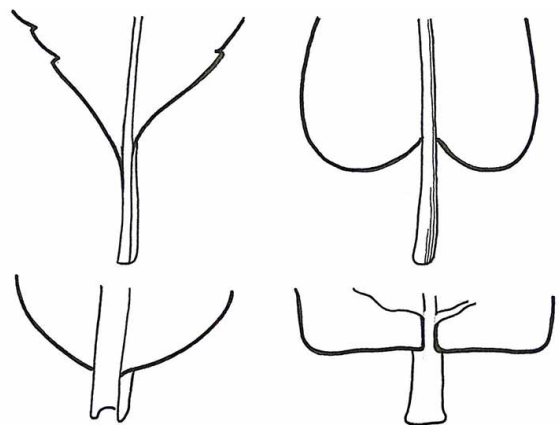
### 3. Draw the tip

Notice the tip of the leaf. Is it rounded or pointy and if so, how much? Draw in the tip of the leaf.



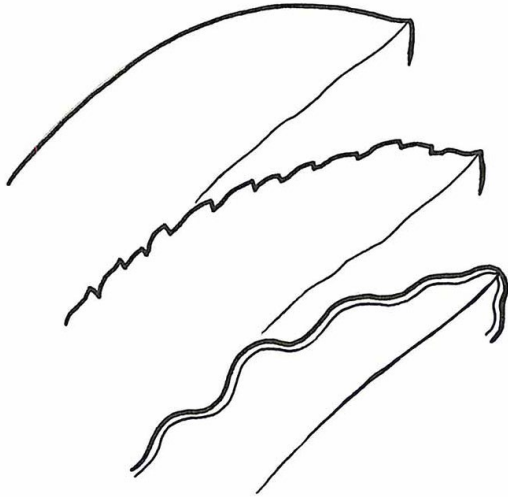
### 4. Draw the base

Look carefully at the bottom of the leaf where the stem joins it. What is the shape of the leaf here? Draw it in.



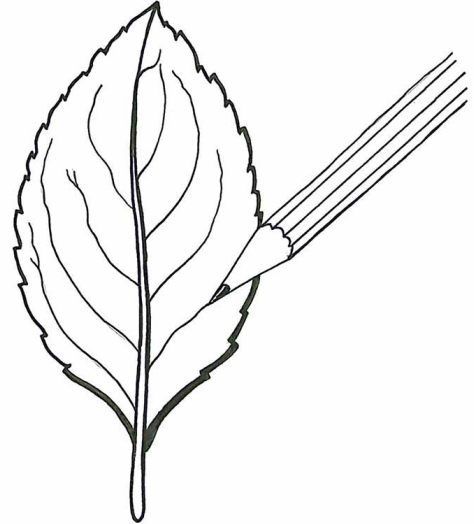
## 5. Draw the margins

What do the edges – the ‘margins’ – of the leaf look like? Are they smooth or do they have ‘teeth’? Are the margins flat or wavy? Draw in the shape of your leaf, paying special attention to the margins.



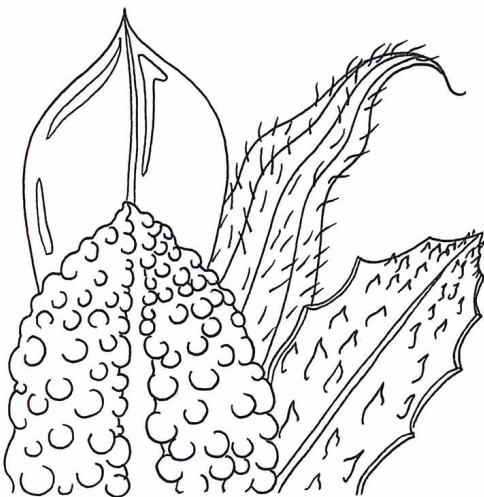
## 6. Draw the smaller veins

Now look at the little veins. Are they coming out of the midrib? Are there lots or only a few? Are they big or small? Straight or wavy? Draw in the smaller veins carefully.



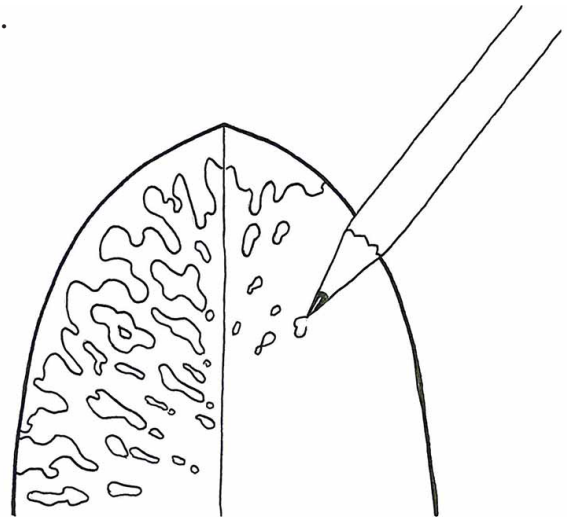
## 7. Add texture

Notice how your leaf feels. Is it flat and shiny, or does it have bumps and lumps? Is it spiky or hairy? Draw these in if your leaf has them.



## 8. Add any patterns

Lots of leaves have patterns on them: spots, stripes or splodges! These can be important to a plant, so add them in if your leaf has them.



## 9. Check the back of the leaf

The back of a leaf can be very different to the front. Sometimes this can tell us a lot about the plant. If you have time you can draw the back of the leaf too. Notice how it's different to the front of the leaf and use the steps above to draw the back, just as you did for the front.

