LEAF STUDY

STEP ONE: BASIC LEAF PARTS

Before you draw your leaf or leaves you need to learn the four basic leaf parts that you will be observing and labeling for this project.

- **Midrib** — a thick central vein that runs the length of a leaf
- **Apex** — the tip or end of a leaf
- **Blade** — the flat part of a leaf
- **Petiole** — the stalk that joins the leaf to the rest of the plant
- **Veins** — lines found on the leaf blade radiating from the midrib or petiole

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Drawing of lily leaf by James McNamee c. 1915, Mendocino County Museum Collection.

STEP TWO: GATHER YOUR LEAVES

Now it’s time to collect your leaves! You can gather leaves from your back yard, the park, or even draw leaves on a house plant. If you want to study more than one leaf you can find leaves with different shapes and vein patterns.

STEP THREE: DRAW YOUR LEAVES

It’s your turn to draw! Once you have as many leaves as you want to study it’s time to sketch each leaf. When you are done drawing you will want to label each of the five parts of your leaf.

If you drew more than one leaf you can compare and contrast. What are some words that describe your leaf? Is it soft, fuzzy, or waxy?