

Indigenous Communities and Black Walnut Trees

Several Indigenous Nations native to North Carolina used the Black Walnut tree for medicinal purposes.

Tree Identification

BLACK WALNUT

"Traditionally, the Waccamaw Siouan would crack and use the nut placed directly on skin to draw out ringworm... The Lumbee have a history of using bark as a fish poison. The Cherokee used the bark in a tea to treat small pox." – NC Native Ethnobotany Project, ncnativeethnobotany.org



Black Walnut
Juglans Nigra

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Today, the Lumbee tribe uses black walnuts in ice cream as a yummy treat!



Find Black
Walnuts at the
Garden!

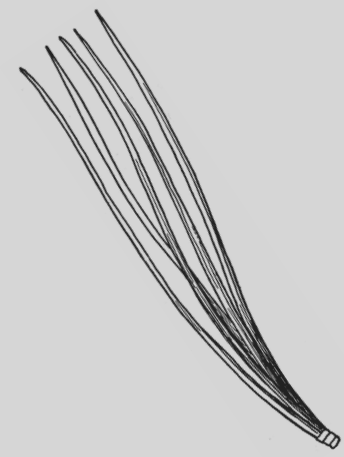
Did you know?

Black Walnut trees release a chemical called 'juglone' which is its own personal weed killer! This protects the tree and helps it grow big and strong.

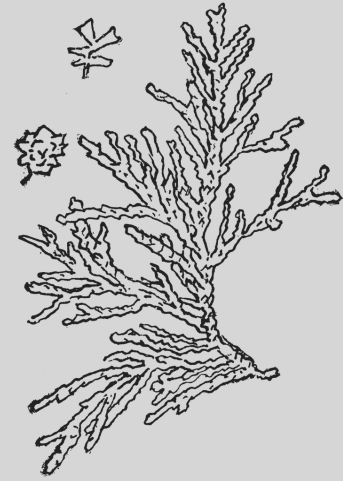
Name: _____

You can identify trees by noticing the shapes and arrangements of their leaves.

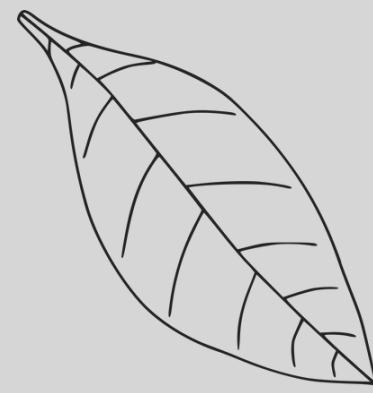
Find a tree and observe if it has:



Needle leaves

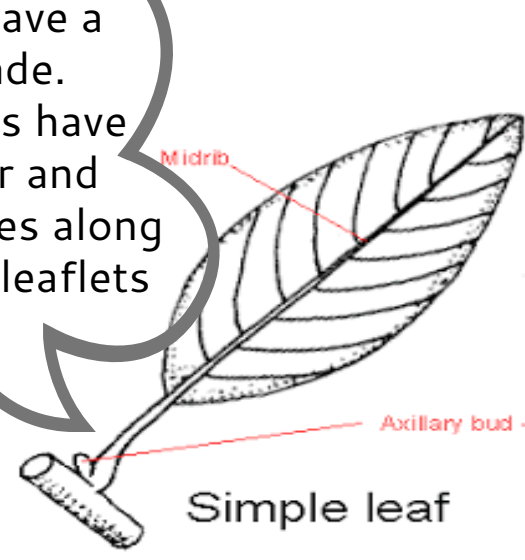


Scale leaves

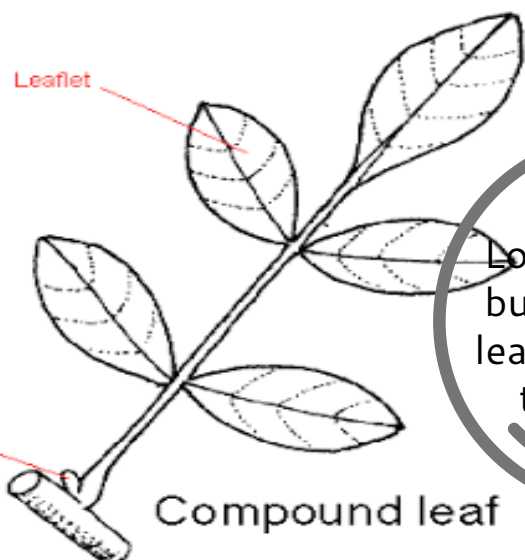


Broad Leaves

Simple leaves have a single leaf blade. Compound leaves have multiple smaller and separate leaf blades along the midrib called leaflets

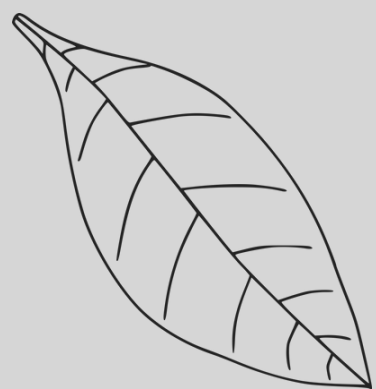


Simple leaf

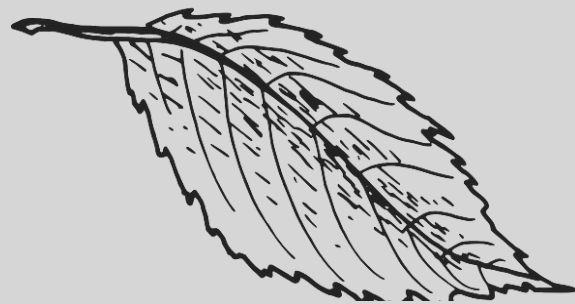


Compound leaf

Look for a leaf bud where the leaf attaches to the branch.



Smooth Edges



Toothed Edges



Alternate Leaves



Opposite Leaves



Whorled Leaves

Remember to stay on the path in Duke Gardens

Choose 2 trees and observe closely

Tree 1: _____

Draw this tree:

Tree 2: _____

Draw this tree:

- Does this tree have:
- broad leaves yes no
 - compound leaves yes no
 - toothed edges yes no
 - alternate leaves yes no

- Does this tree have:
- broad leaves yes no
 - compound leaves yes no
 - toothed edges yes no
 - alternate leaves yes no

All yes? This may be a Black Walnut!

One or more no? This is not a Black Walnut but you can use this information to identify it

Can you find Black Walnut trees around Durham?