



This is a first grade goal, but fun for any age.

Season: Spring through Fall

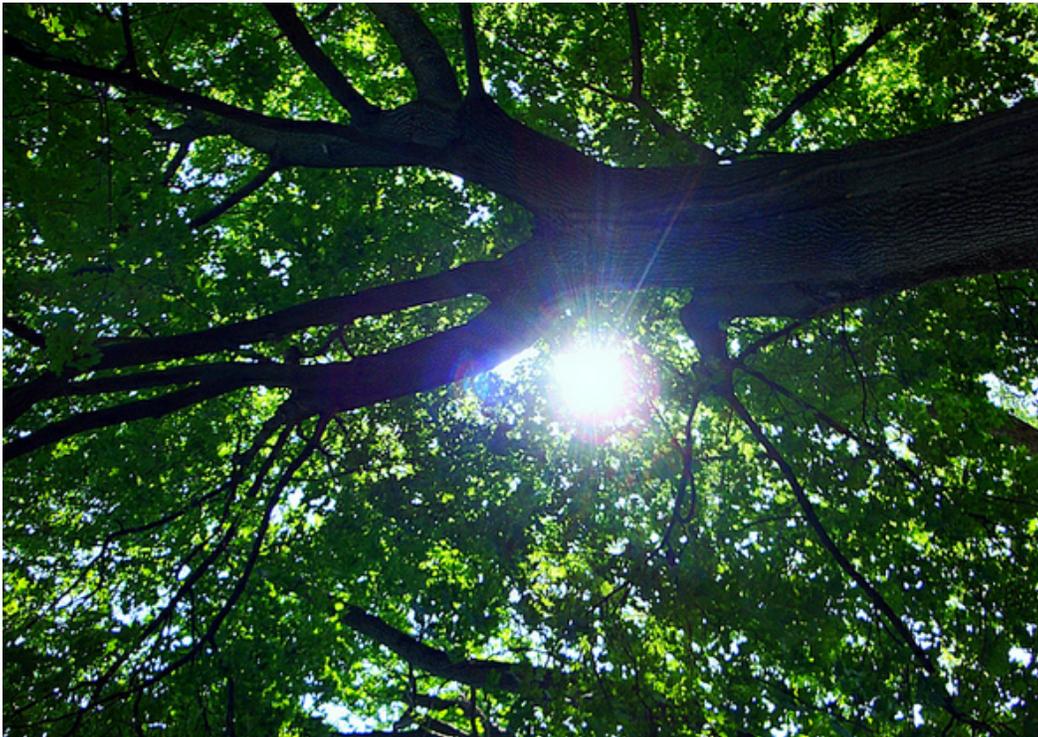
Observing: Leaf Walk

Equipment: Eyes; camera optional

Living Things: Structure and Function

Relates the structures of plant parts to their role in obtaining water and sunlight.

Plants, like all other living organisms have basic needs: a source of nutrients (food), water, space in which to live, air, and comfortable temperatures in order to grow and reproduce.



Since sunlight + ground water = plant food, the plants are good at finding sunlight!

The route:

Outside the front door of the school you will find ivy climbing the wall. Ivy has special climbing roots that grab the wall. There are no other plants on the wall so the ivy has no problem finding light! The sun can get real hot though, so the leaves are small and bumpy. Bumpy things have shade somewhere on themselves because bumps cast a shadow (usually).





Walk to the habitat, and just before you go in look under the roofed sign and you will see hosta.
Hosta are big plants, so they need to make a lot of food. Hosta can live in the shade because they have BIG leaves to catch the light they need to make sugars. The leaves are smooth and big and do not worry about getting too hot and dried out because they are in the shade.





In the garden find the yucca plants...the big ones can be seen from either the center circle path or the large meeting space. Yuccas come from hot dry places. Their leaves are covered with tough waxy surface and the light color bounces away extra sun. They are skinny leaves so the sun does not make them too hot.



Like us, plants need to drink more when they get hot. The leaves are shaped and colored to gather enough light to make the food, but not gather too much light and get too hot so the plant needs more water than it can find.

Look around the habitat.

There are so many different leaves!!

Each plant has a reason for their leaf's shape and surface.





This fuzzy plant is a mullein. White fuzz keeps plants cool in the heat and warm in the cold.