

Leaves! Leaves! Leaves!

by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

Beautifully illustrated with colorful paper mache art, children will enjoy following a mama bear and her cub on many nature walks as they search for leaves and learn about a leaf's life cycle.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Leaves are fun to play in, what other kinds of things would you like to play in?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder how deep that pile of leaves is?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. The illustrations in this book are very detailed so allow plenty of time for the children to look. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Leaves! Leaves! Leaves!*

- damp: slightly moist
- tugged: to pull sharply at somebody or something
- buds: the outgrowth on a plant stem
- bud scales: a scaly leaf that protects the bud
- blade: a long thin leaf
- veins: a strand inside of a leaf that contains sap
- stem: the main stalk of a plant that bears buds and shoots
- edges: the outermost part of a leaf, the border
- jagged: pointy, rough and uneven
- chlorophyll: the green plant pigment that captures the light energy used in photosynthesis
- nutrients: the nourishing substance that keeps things healthy
- carbon dioxide: a heavy, colorless gas used during photosynthesis
- crisp: fresh and crunchy, easily broken or crushed
- crunch: a loud, short sound made when something is crushed
- season: a traditional division of the year based off of weather conditions
- rustled: to make a swishing sound
- rotting: the process of decaying or decomposing

After you read:

- In what season did the story first take place?
- Did the bears find any leaves? What did they find instead?
- What are the lines in a leaf called?
- What shapes did the leaves look like in the summer?
- Can you describe how plants get food and nutrients?
- What colors were the leaves in the fall?
- Why do leaves fall off of the trees?
- Were there a lot of leaves on the trees in the winter? What did the leaves look like?
- Why were there holes in the leaves?
- What did the leaves and the bears both do in the winter?



Do

Tree Labels

You will need: *Tree Labels* sheet, construction paper, glue, scissors and markers/crayons

After reading the story, turn to the “Leaves: A Food Factory” page. Read each vocabulary word and the definition. Hand each child the *Tree Labels* sheet, scissors, glue and construction paper. Allow the children enough time to color all the parts of the tree. Next, the children will need to cut out the tree and the definitions. Then the children will need to glue the tree onto the center of the construction paper. You will need to help the children label their trees by gluing down each definition in the proper place.

My Name: _____

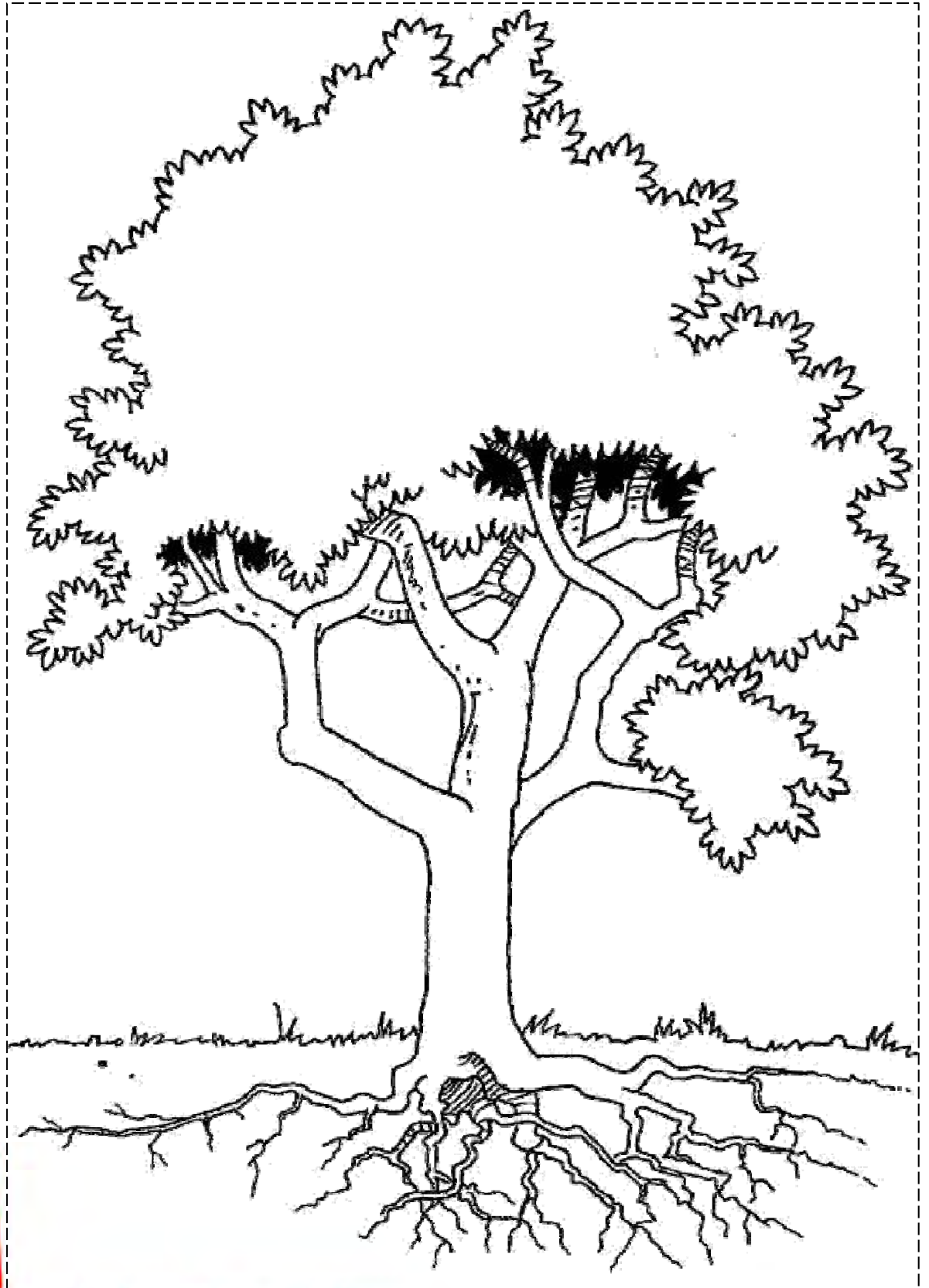
Tree Labels

Trunk

Roots

Leaves

Branches



**"Children are
made readers
on the laps of
their parents."
—Emilie Buchwald**