

Introducing ...

Leaves and litter

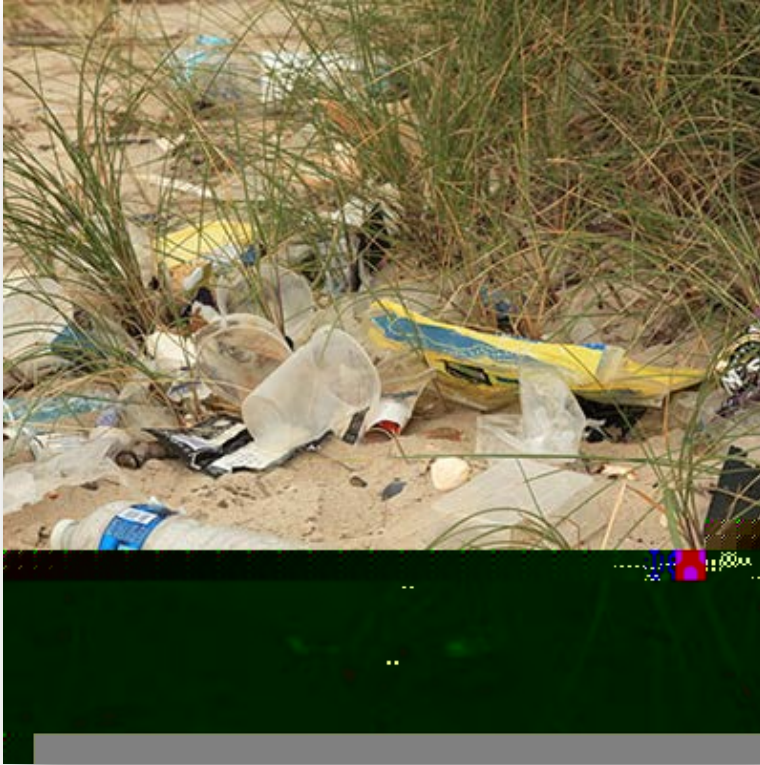


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Two types of litter



waste, or 'bad' litter



natural, or 'good' litter

Why do you think litter is important?

- It is a shelter for small animals.
- It stops the ground from drying out.
- It protects seeds from being eaten.
- It stops wind from blowing top-soil away.
- It provides food for invertebrates.

The background image shows a forest floor covered in dry, brown leaves and twigs. A green plant with several leaves is visible in the center-left area. The text "Where does litter come from?" is overlaid on a semi-transparent white banner at the top.

Where does litter come from?

Let's take a closer look.

There are leaves with different shapes



photo: Felicity Bradshaw

They come from different trees

banksia



jarrah



sheoak



Where did these come from?



sheoak



jarrah

banksia

This litter has three types of bark



Litter comes from living trees



Exploring leaves



Leaves come in many shapes and sizes



Why are leaves **green**?

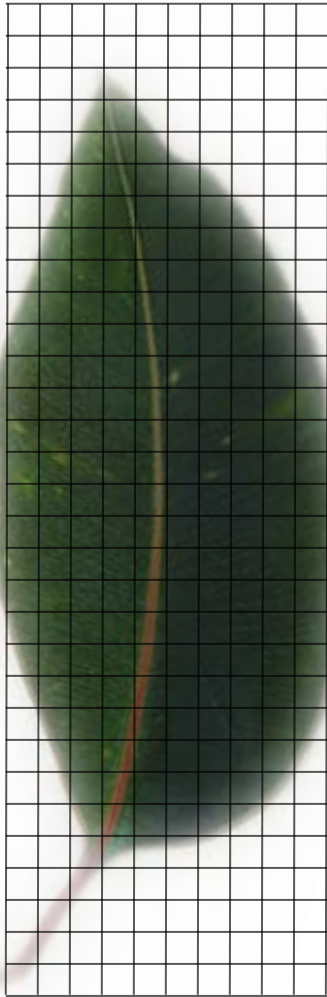


Leaves contain **chlorophyll**, that makes food for the plant.

With food, plants can:

- grow more **leaves**,
- grow **roots**,
- make **flowers**,
- make **nectar**,
- make **seeds**, and
- make **fruit**.

What does my leaf look like?



- surface (smooth, leathery ...)
- edge (smooth, spiny ...)
- shape (thin, wide ...)
- length (cm)
- width (cm)
- area (number of squares)

Question:

Do wide leaves make more food than narrow leaves?

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Be a Bush Scientist 2: Introducing leaves and litter

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