



NA MĀHELE O KA LAU

PARTS OF A LEAF



GUIDING QUESTION

How can you use a leaf to tell different plants apart?

WHAT WE'LL LEARN

Imagine that you had to tell a friend to gather a certain plant for making lei. Now imagine that they had never seen the specific plant that you need. What would you use to describe the plant so that they pick the right thing?

In this lesson we will look at the different characteristics of a leaf, and parts of the leaf, in order to be able to tell plants apart. Then next time you want to describe a plant to someone, you'll have a new set of tools in your toolbox!

TIME

45 mins

MATERIALS

- Learning journal or pieces of paper
- Crayon (with paper peeled off)
- Leaves from your yard or neighborhood
- Plant ID sheets (pages 6-8 of guide)

GET STARTED

Leaves can be a super useful tool in identifying different plants. For example an 'ulu leaf and a ti leaf are very different. But how do you describe that difference? Take a moment to answer the following questions. Jot some your answers on a piece of paper or your learning journal.

- **Describe an 'ulu leaf. Describe a ti leaf. What are the differences in those descriptions? What are the similarities? (If you dont know what these look like do a quick Google search for some images.)**
- **What are some of the descriptive words you used to describe each leaf?**
- **What senses (sight, touch, smell, etc.) can you use to tell these two leaves apart?**

EXPLORE

WATCH →

Nā Māhele o ka Lau



INVESTIGATE →

Follow instructions on page 3 to complete Nā Māhele o ka Lau worksheet.

To get some tips on how to do a successful leaf rubbing watch this video. <https://youtu.be/DbY9rZTPuKU>



ACTIVITY

INVESTIGATE →

Follow the instructions on page 4 to complete the Leaf Scavenger Hunt Worksheet (pages 4-5).

REFLECT

Think about your leaf scavenger hunt. Answer the following questions on a piece of paper or your learning journal →

- **What was the most helpful characteristic (margin, shape, size, color, etc.) you used when finding a plant?**
- **What characteristic was the most difficult to use?**
- **What are some of the words you would use to describe a leaf of your favorite plant in your yard?**

If you can, share your answers with a family member or friend.

EXPLORE MORE

INVESTIGATE →



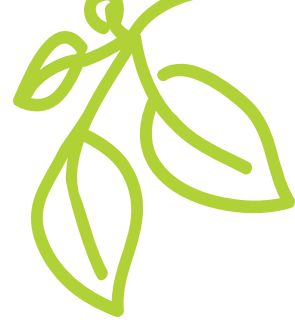
[PRISM lesson, Botany Basics](#)

PLAY →

Try out a game of Plant Describe and Seek. Pick a plant in your yard. Describe a the leaves of the plant to a family member . Then ask them to go and find your plant. Were your descriptions enough to help them find the right plant? Remember, all your senses can help provide clues. You can even the use the scientific descriptions on your reference pages if you want to get technical. Have fun!

NĀ MĀHELE O KA LAU

PARTS OF A LEAF



1) Choose 4 different plants from your yard. Pick one leaf from each plant.

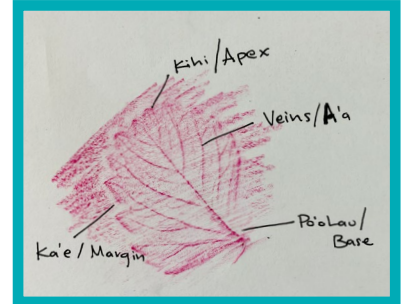
2) Check to see if the whole leaf can fit into a square below . If it does not fit, don't worry, you can make 2- 3 smaller leaf rubbings of the different leaf parts

3) In each square, use a crayon to make a leaf rubbing from each of the plants.

4) On each leaf label the following,

- Kihī / Apex,
- Ka'e / Margin
- Po'o Lau / Base
- A'a / Veins

EXAMPLE:



LEAF SCAVENGER HUNT



1) Use your senses and the reference pages 6-8 of this guide to find a leaf in your yard that matches the clue in each square below.

2) Make a leaf rubbing in the square of the matching leaf. If the leaf is small you can do a rubbing of the whole leaf. If the leaf is really big, just do a rubbing of the part that the clue focused on.

3) Try to find as many matching leaves as you can. Don't worry if you can't find all the leaves. The important part is to be observant and to practice your leaf ID skills!

SHAPE: LINEAR

COLOR: SILVERY

MARGIN: ENTIRE

TEXTURE: ROUGH

LEAF SCAVENGER HUNT



APEX: RETUSE

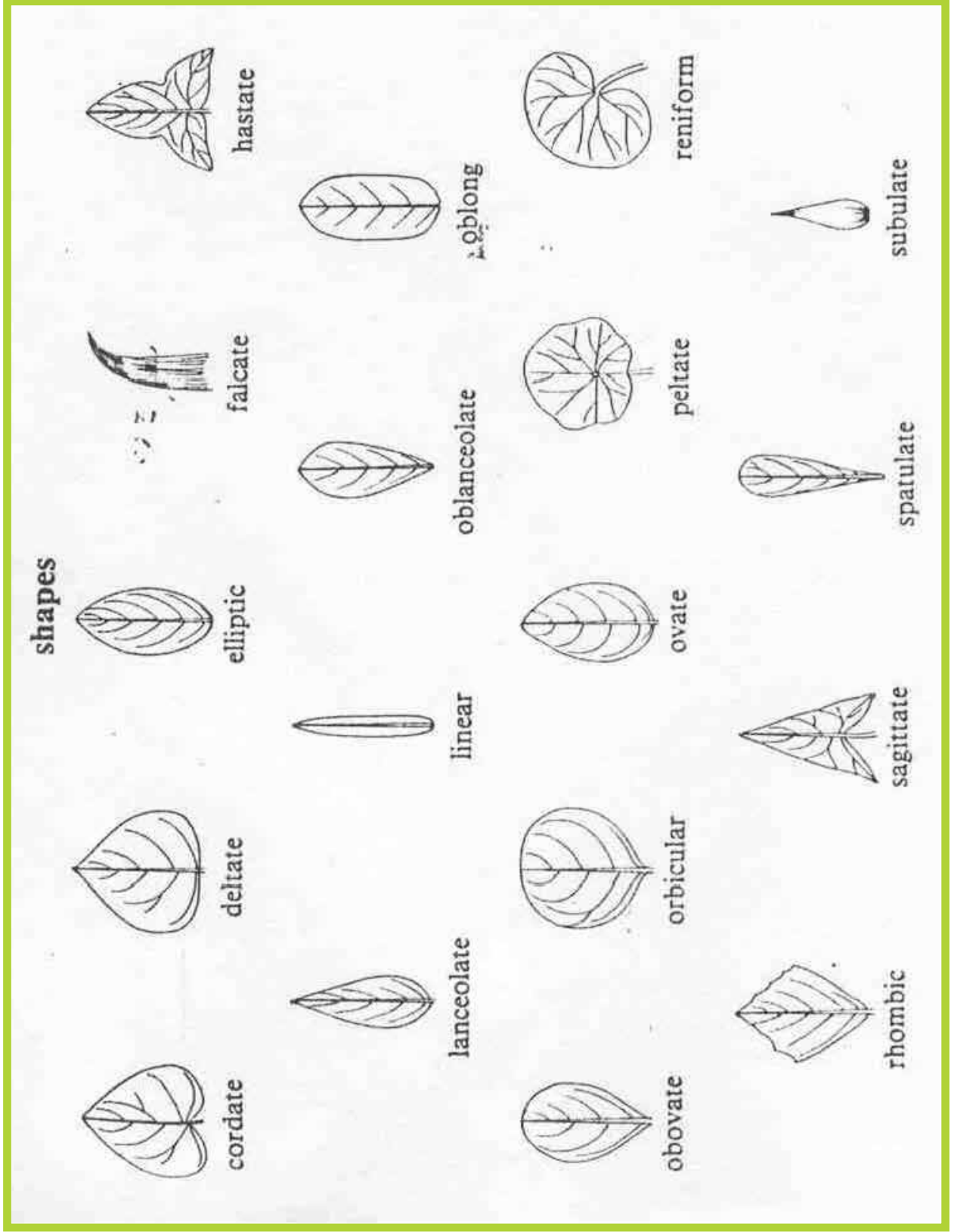
SIZE: REALLY SMALL

SHAPE: HEART-SHAPED

BASE: AURICULATE

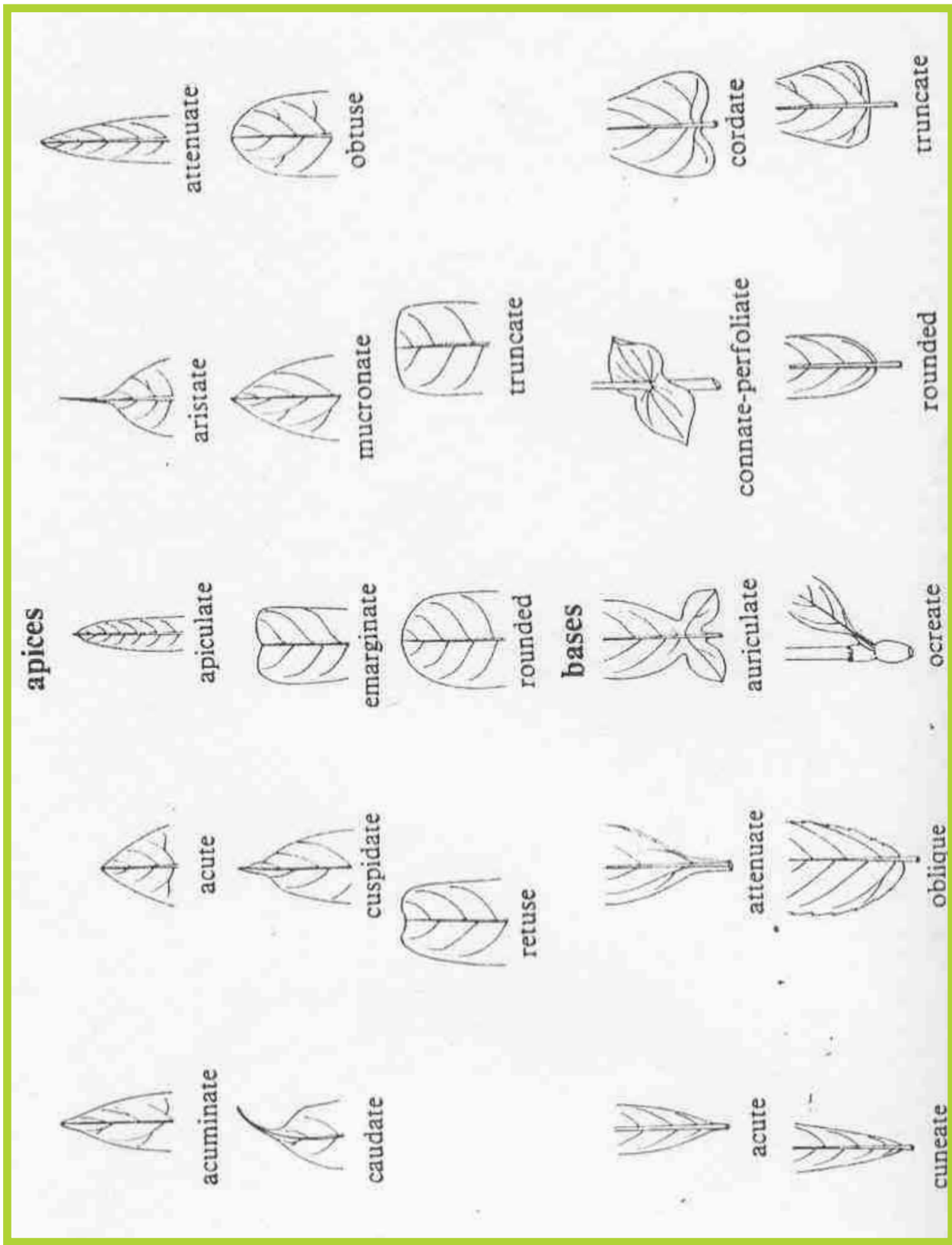
INOA KINONA LAU

LEAF SHAPE TERMS



INOA KIHI A ME INOA PO'O LAU

APEX AND BASE TERMS



INOA KA'E

MARGIN TERMS

