



The Leaves

Role of Leaves

- Leaves make food for the entire plant.
- They come in different shapes and sizes.
- Most leaves are green due to a pigment called chlorophyll.

Structure of a Leaf

Lamina (Leaf Blade):

The flat part of the leaf.

Midrib:

The main vein running through the center of the leaf.

Small veins:

Form a network and carry water and minerals to all parts of the leaf.

Petiole:

The stalk that attaches the leaf to the stem or branch.

Stomata:

- Tiny openings on the lower side of the leaf.
- Allow air to enter the leaf.
- Take in carbon dioxide from the air.

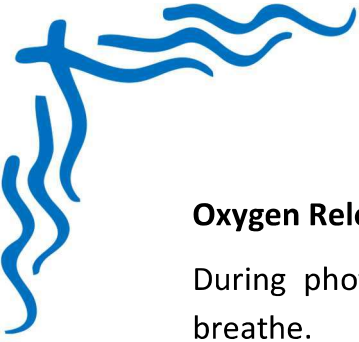
Functions of Leaves

Food Production (Photosynthesis):

Leaves use:

- Sunlight
- Water (from the stem)
- Carbon dioxide (from the air)

They make food for the plant through a process called photosynthesis.

**Oxygen Release:**

During photosynthesis, leaves release oxygen, which humans and animals need to breathe.

Food Storage in Leaves:

In some plants, leaves store food, e.g.:

- Cabbage
- Spinach

Tip for Students:

Photosynthesis = Sunlight + Water + Carbon Dioxide → Food + Oxygen

Leaves = Food factories of plants