

Learning Laguna Field Activity: Laguna Leaves

Goals: To familiarize students with important Laguna trees. To be creative and make a simple take home field guide so students learn to identify three Laguna trees. To allow students the opportunity to examine the structure of leaves up close.

Why are trees and shrubs important to wildlife?

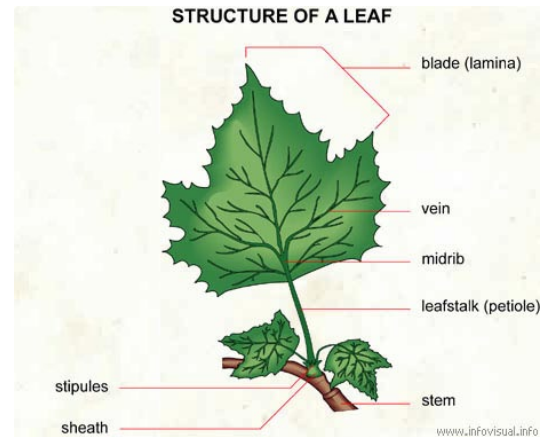
They provide food and protection to wildlife. Sometimes they help clean water. When they die they return nutrients to the soil for other plants and animals to use, etc.

What *kinds* of food do trees and shrubs provide?

Seeds, leaves, roots, pollen, and sometimes even twigs.

How do trees & shrubs protect wildlife?

Provide places to hide, places to build nests.



From the slide show last week, does anyone remember a name of an important Laguna tree? That's right, the Valley Oak! Some other important trees along the Laguna include:

Elderberry
Oregon Ash
Box Elder
Hawthorne

California Walnut
Black Oak
Willow
Fremont Cottonwood

Some important Laguna shrubs are:

Coyote Brush
Blackberry

California Wild Rose
Poison Oak

I've collected leaves from three of those trees: willow, cottonwood (or Oregon Ash if at Lower Stone Farm) and valley oak. Now, you get to make a rubbing of these leaves so you can recognize these trees on your own.

Directions:

- Take a leaf and put it upside-down on the clipboard so that the veins are showing and the top of the leaf is against the clipboard.
- Now, match the leaf to its section of the paper
- Take a colored pencil or crayon and make wide scribbles over the leaf. An image of it will magically appear on your paper!
- Do the same thing for each of the three trees listed