



Leaf Riddles



30 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.

Easy riddles ★

- 1 In spring I'm a tiny bud, in summer I'm green and give shade, and in fall I let go and twirl down to the ground. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 2 I have a long handle and a row of thin teeth, but I never eat a thing. I pull the leaves on your lawn into a big pile. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 3 I'm the thick, woody middle of a tree. Every branch and every leaf grows up above me. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 4 I'm a small nut wearing a little cap. I fall from an oak tree, and squirrels bury me for the winter. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 5 You can't see me, but I shake the branches and send leaves skittering across the yard. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 6 I'm a season with two names. One of my names tells you exactly what the leaves do. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 7 I'm a hungry crawler who munches on leaves all day. Later, I wrap myself up tight and come out with wings. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 8 I'm a leaf that people eat, crunchy and green, and I'm the base of most salads. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 9 On a hot summer day, the sun can't reach you when you sit under a tree full of leaves. What do the leaves give you?

ANSWER _____

- 10 What did the tree say when fall came and the leaves started dropping?

ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

- 11 I'm the green stuff inside every leaf. I catch sunlight so the plant can make its own food. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 12 Leaves do me every sunny day: they take in sunlight, water and carbon dioxide, make sugar, and give off oxygen. What am I called?

ANSWER _____

- 13 I'm a leaf's network of thin lines. I carry water into the leaf and food out of it, a bit like the blood vessels in your arm. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 14 Oak and maple trees drop all their leaves every fall. What's the science word for trees like that?

ANSWER _____

- 15 My leaves are thin, sharp needles, and I keep them all winter long while other trees go bare. What's the name for trees like me?

ANSWER _____

- 16 A red maple leaf with 11 points sits in the middle of my flag. Which country am I?

ANSWER _____

- 17 I have many leaves, but I'm not a tree. I have a spine, but I have no bones. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 18 I'm a furry Australian animal who sleeps up to 20 hours a day and eats almost nothing but eucalyptus leaves. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 19 Hikers have a rhyme to warn about me: "Leaves of three, let it be!" Touch me and you'll get an itchy rash. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 20 Pile fallen leaves in a corner of the garden, add time, worms and a little water, and they turn into me: dark, crumbly stuff that feeds next year's plants. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 21 Squirrels build a big round nest out of leaves and twigs high up in a tree. What is that nest called?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★★

- 22 We're tiny holes, mostly on the underside of a leaf. We open and close to let carbon dioxide in and let oxygen and water vapor out. What are we called?

ANSWER _____

23 I'm the little stalk that joins a leaf to its twig. Botanists call me by a name that starts with P. What am I?

ANSWER _____

24 My fan-shaped leaves turn butter-yellow in fall and often drop almost all at once. My family of trees is so old that dinosaurs walked past my ancestors. What tree am I?

ANSWER _____

25 What is the main signal that tells a tree it's time to stop making green chlorophyll in the fall: the first frost, shorter days, or the first snow?

ANSWER _____

26 We march in long lines carrying pieces of leaf bigger than our bodies, but we don't eat the leaves. We use them to grow an underground garden of fungus, and we eat that instead. What are we?

ANSWER _____

27 My leaves have a hinge and tiny trigger hairs. When an insect brushes those hairs twice, my leaf snaps shut on it. What plant am I?

ANSWER _____

28 I live in the desert, and my leaves are so thin and sharp that you'd never call them leaves. They help me lose less water and keep hungry animals away. What am I?

ANSWER _____

29 In late summer, before a leaf falls, I'm already waiting on the twig, wrapped up tight, ready to open into a brand-new leaf next spring. What am I?

ANSWER _____

30 A tree has 5 branches. Each branch has 4 twigs, and each twig has 10 leaves. A windy night blows away half of the leaves. How many leaves are still on the tree?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Leaf Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. A leaf
2. A rake
3. The trunk
4. An acorn
5. The wind
6. Fall
7. A caterpillar
8. Lettuce
9. Shade
10. "Leaf me alone!"
11. Chlorophyll
12. Photosynthesis
13. Veins
14. Deciduous
15. Evergreen (like a pine or a spruce)
16. Canada
17. A book. Its pages are also called leaves.
18. A koala
19. Poison ivy
20. Compost
21. A drey
22. Stomata
23. The petiole
24. A ginkgo
25. Shorter days. As the nights get longer, trees make less chlorophyll; cool nights speed it up.
26. Leaf-cutter ants
27. A Venus flytrap
28. A cactus. Its spines are leaves that changed shape over time.
29. A bud
30. 100. The tree had $5 \times 4 \times 10 = 200$ leaves, and half of 200 is 100.

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/leaf-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.