Botany – the study of plants. A person who studies plants is a botanist. Botanists need to be able to identify different plants by their structures and characteristics, or in other words how the plant looks.

### Plant Structures Botanists Use to Identify Plants

- **Leaf or Leaves** – They are usually green and help the plant make food through a process called photosynthesis.
- **Needles** – Some trees have needles rather than leaves. The number of needles in each bundle or the arrangement of the needles can help identify the tree.
- **Flowers** – Some plants have flowers that provide food for birds and insects. The flower color, size, and petal arrangement can all tell us what the plant is.
- **Seeds or cones** – These structures help plants reproduce and create new plants. The type and size can identify the plant.

### Botany Activities

1. Find one of each of the above Plant Structures. Draw them on a piece of paper and label the structure.

2. Find some leaves on the ground. How are they different? How are they similar? Take a piece of paper and put it on top of the leaf, then take a pencil and color the paper on top of the leaf.

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