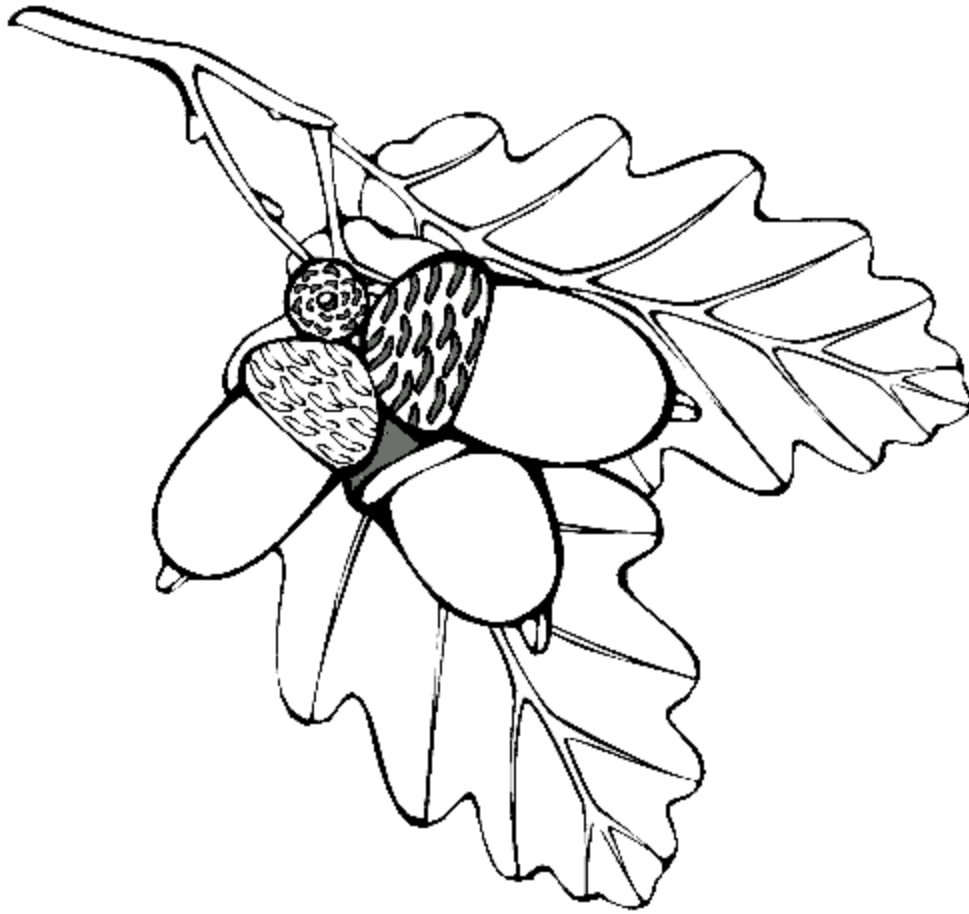


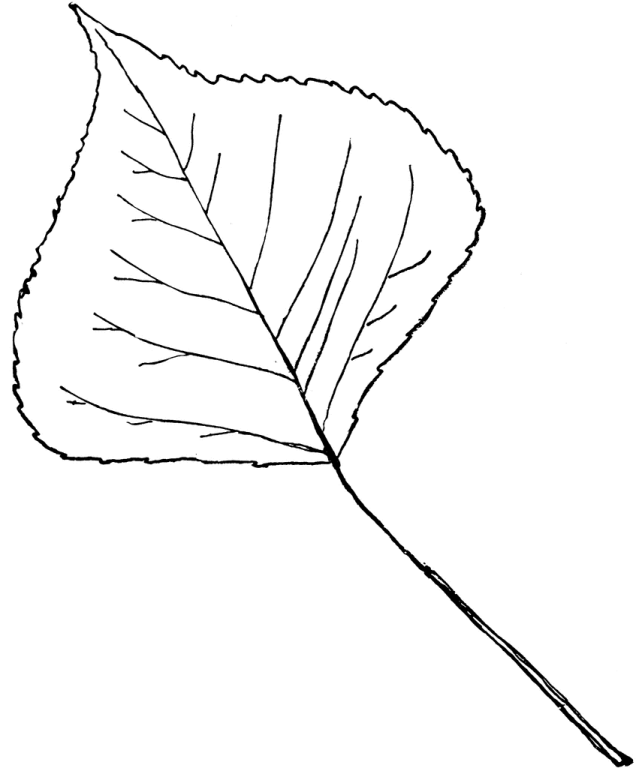
Acorns & Oak trees



Did you know.....

- Oak trees can reach 70 feet in height and 9 feet in width. Their branches can reach 135 feet in length.
- One of the biggest oaks is located in Goose Island State Park. This oak is 45 feet tall, 35 feet wide, with crown that has 90 feet in diameter.
- Due to its large dimensions, oak requires large amount of water per day. It can absorb 50 gallons of water each day.
- Oaks have leaves that can be lobed, serrated or flat on the edges. Certain species have leaves with bristles.
- Fruit of the oak is called acorn. Production of acorns starts at the age of 20 to 50 years.
- The acorn, or oak nut, is the nut of the oaks and their close relatives. It usually contains a single seed, enclosed in a tough, leathery shell, and borne in a cup-shaped cupule.
- Oaks produce more than 2000 acorns every year, but only one in 10,000 acorns will manage to develop into oak tree.
- Wood of oak is very strong and hard. It is used to build ships, furniture, floorings and Yamaha drums.
- Oak is national plant of many countries including USA, England, France, Germany, Latvia, Poland and Serbia. It symbolizes strength and endurance.
- Oak is also used in army ranking. Silver leaf indicates Lt. Colonel while gold leaf indicates Lt. Commander.
- Most species of oaks live over 200 years. There are certain trees that can survive over thousand years. Oak tree planted during the reign of King John managed to survive 800 years and reign of 35 other rulers.

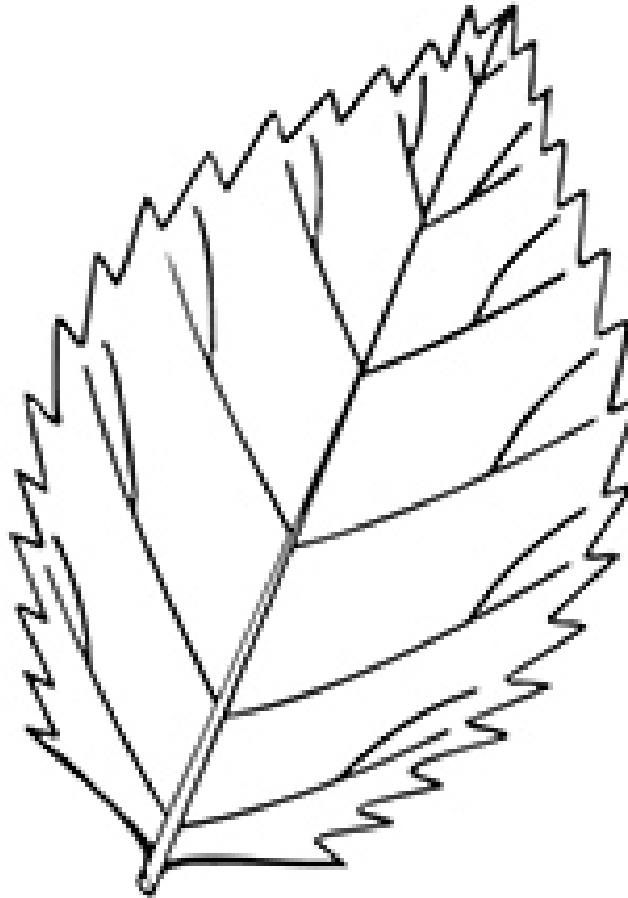
Aspen Tree



Did you know...

- Aspen is a type of deciduous tree that belongs to the willow family. They can be found in the temperate areas of the northern hemisphere. Aspen grows in the sunny areas, on a moist, but well-drained soil.
- Aspen can grow from 49 to 98 feet in height, depending on the species. It usually grows to the height of 65 feet.
- Aspen has green, round or oval leaves that are serrated on the edges. Color of the leaves changes from green to golden yellow during the autumn. Even the slightest breeze triggers trembling of leaves because of their light-weight and long leaf-stalks.
- Aspen is important source of food for the forest animals. Beavers eat bark, twigs and leaves and use branches to build dams. Moose, elk and deer eat twigs and leaves, while rabbits, hares and muskrats consume bark of the tree. Songbirds eat seed, flower buds and fruit.
- Some people believe that life's mysteries can be revealed by careful listening of the sound produced by trembling leaves of aspen.
- Lifespan of aspen depends on the vegetative part of the tree. Parts of the plant that grow above the ground live 40 to 150 years (depending on the species), while root may survive thousands of years.

Elm Tree



Did you know...

Size of elm depends on the species. Some varieties are cultivated as dwarf trees, while other can reach the height of 115 feet.

Elm is shaped like a vase: its trunk consists of several limbs arched to the outwards. It has light or dark grey, furrowed bark.

Elm is important source of food for birds such as bobwhite, prairie chicken, ruffed grouse and mammals such as possum and squirrels.

Wood of elm was used for the construction of longbows during the Middle Ages.

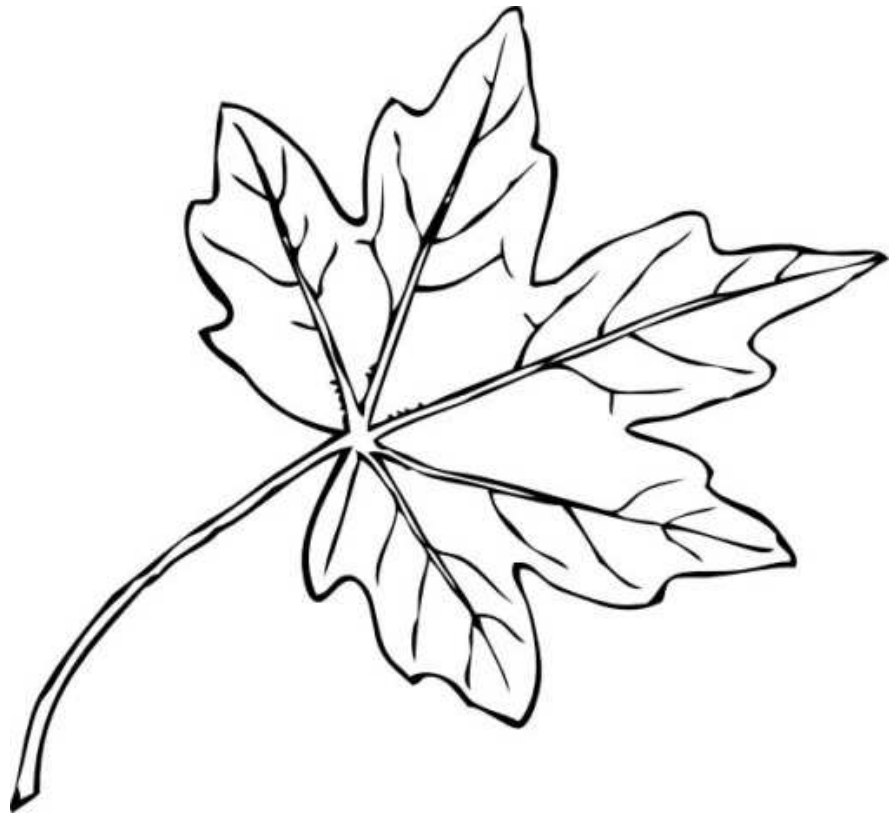
Wood of elm is pliable and resistant to splitting. Native Americans were familiar with these features of elm and they used it for the production of ropes and canoes.

Wood of elm is used for flooring and in the manufacture of coffins, chairs and in the shipbuilding today.

A single elm tree can provide equal cooling effect as 5 air-conditioning units.

Healthy tree can survive 200 to 300 years in the wild. Elm affected by Dutch elm disease cannot survive more than 30 years.

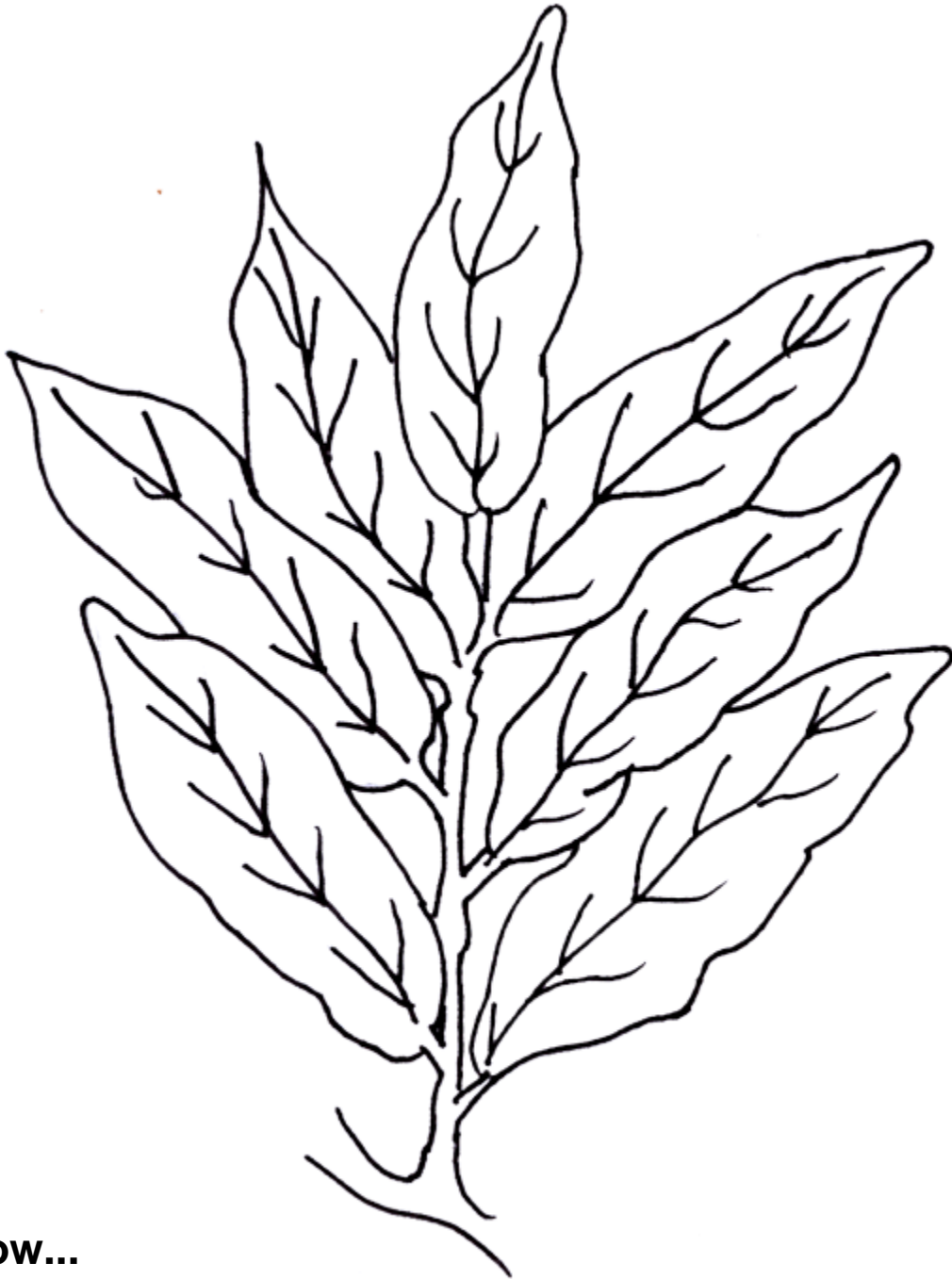
Maple Tree



Did you know...

- Maple tree is plant that belongs to the family Aceraceae.
- Size of maple tree depends on the species. Some types of maple can be grown as bonsai, while other can reach the height of 145 feet.
- Maple tree has brown bark that is smooth in young plants and rough in older plants. Dense and fibrous root system prevents growth of the nearby plants.
- Leaves are divided in 3 to 9 lobes. They are oppositely arranged on the branches.
- Leaves change color from green to different shades of yellow, orange and red during the autumn.
- Maple syrup is best known product of the maple tree. It is produced by boiling of tree sap. Maple tree needs to reach the age of 30 years to become suitable for sap extraction.
- Wood of maple is used in the industry of music instruments for the production of violins, viola, guitars and drums.
- Maple tree can survive more than 300 years under appropriate climate conditions.

Ash trees



Did you know...

- Ash tree is deciduous tree that belongs to the family Oleaceae. Ash tree grows in cool and warm climate, on the moist, well-drained soil, in areas that provide enough direct sunlight.
- Ash trees are often targeted by Emerald Ash Borer (type of beetle) which destroys vascular system of the plant and induces quick death of tree.
- Size of ash tree depends on the species. It can grow from 30 feet (Velvet Ash) to 120 feet (White Ash) in height and 40 to 50 feet in width.
- Ash tree has grayish bark that is smooth in young trees. Bark becomes furrowed, composed of diamond-like pieces in old trees
- Ash trees develop compound leaves. They are 8 to 15 inches long and consist of 5 to 13 oval leaflets with toothed margins. Leaves are green during the spring, and yellow, orange, red and purple during the autumn.