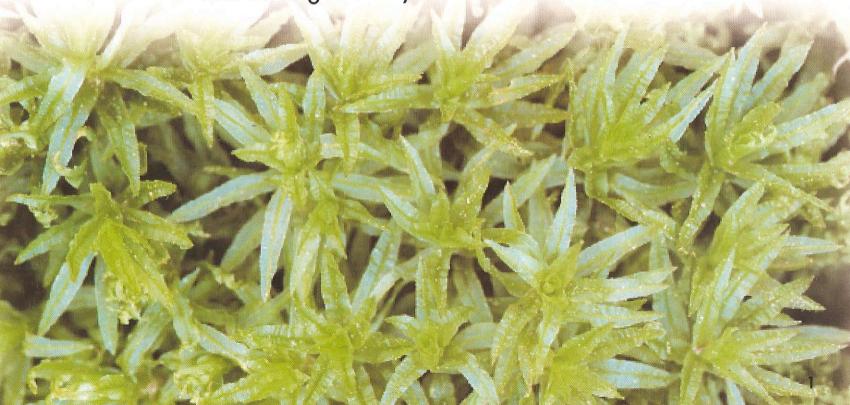
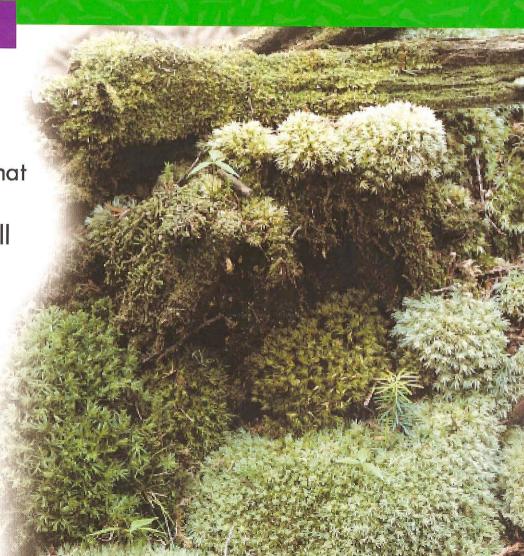
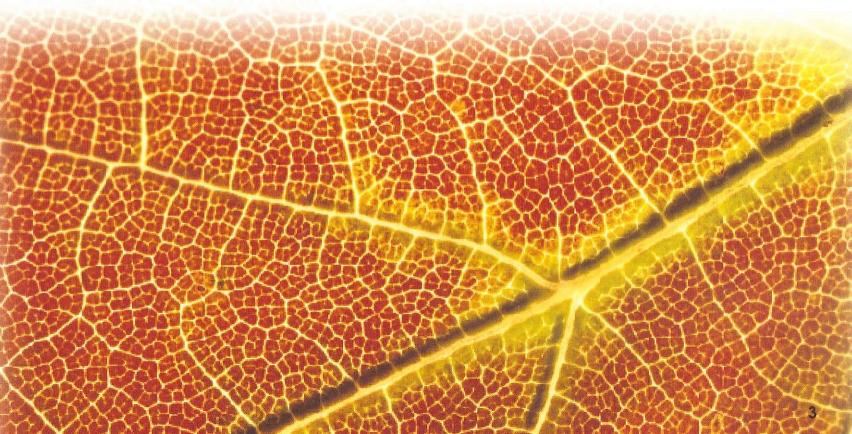
These leaves make a thick spongy carpet that feels good to your feet.

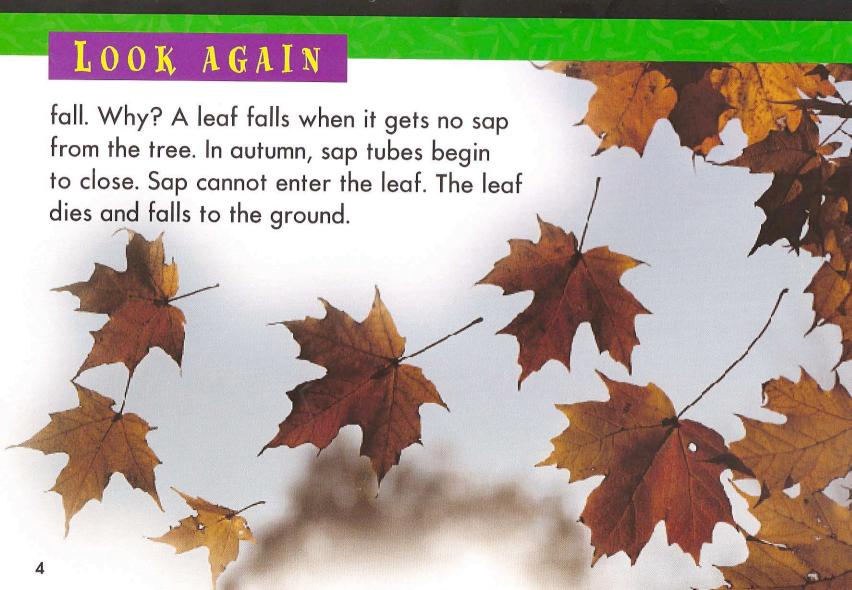


Moss grows on logs, stumps, rocks, and soil. It looks like a soft green mat and it feels like one, too! If you look closely, you will see that the mat is made of many separate plants. Each plant has its own stem and leaves.



When we see these colors, we know that a leaf will soon . . .

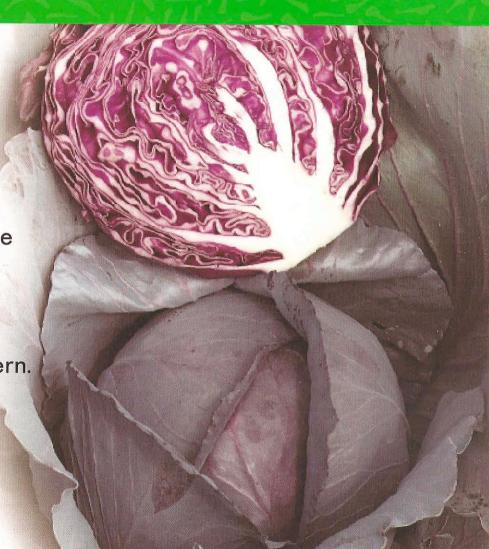




You eat leaves like these in coleslaw and sauerkraut.



A head of cabbage is made of leaves. The leaves grow on a short thick stalk. They wrap around the stalk to make a ball. Some cabbage leaves are green and some are red. If you cut through a cabbage head, the curly leaves make a beautiful pattern.

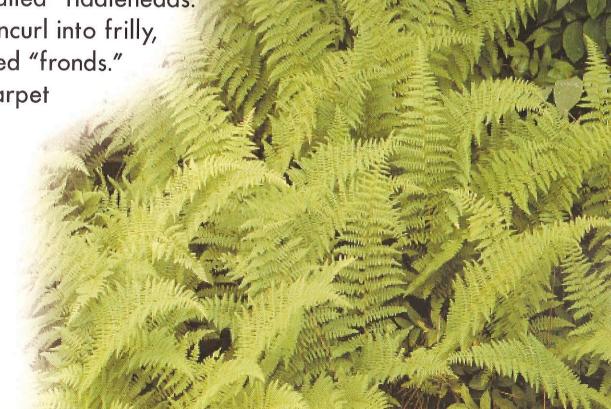




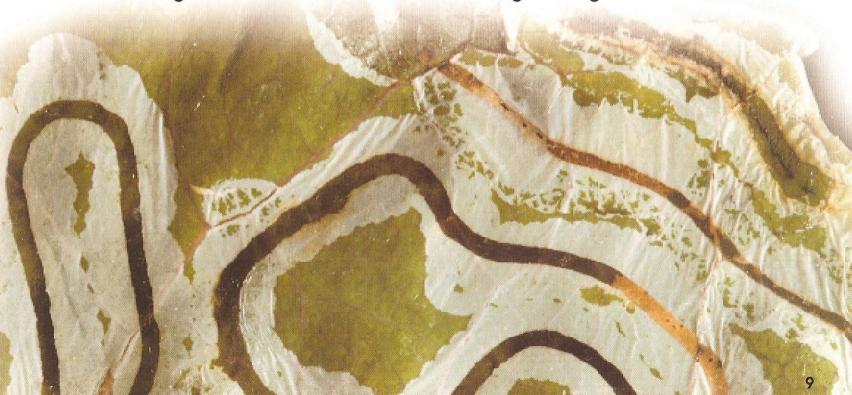
The young shoots of this plant curl up like the head of a fiddle.



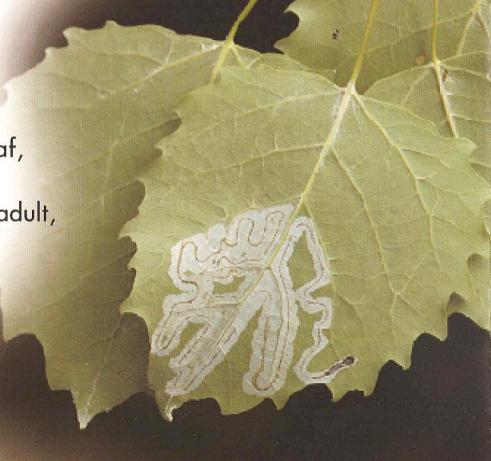
When ferns come up in spring, their shoots are called "fiddleheads." The fiddleheads uncurl into frilly, pointy leaves called "fronds." Fern fronds can carpet a forest's floor.



These curvy lines are made by an insect. It tunnels through the leaf like a miner tunneling through the earth.



An insect lays its eggs inside a leaf. The egg hatches and a larva comes out. It is called a "leaf miner." It eats its way through the leaf, making a tunnel as it goes. When the larva becomes an adult, it flies away to find a mate. Females will lay their eggs in another leaf.

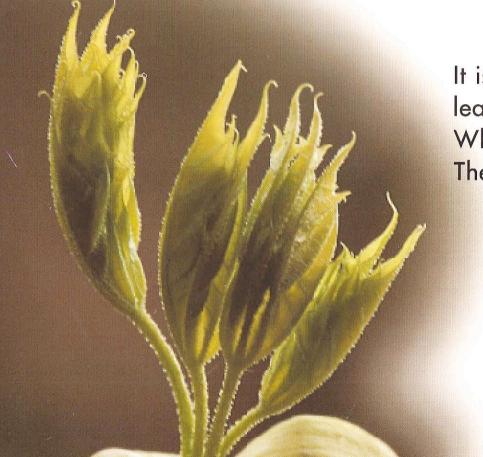




These are not drops of dew, but they are a pretty sight when they glisten in the sunshine. If you are a fly, you don't want to get too close!

The leaves of the sundew are covered with long tentacles. A drop of sticky gum sits at the tip of each tentacle. When a fly lands on a sundew, it sticks to the gum. The plant oozes more gum. The fly cannot get free. Slowly the sundew will digest the fly.

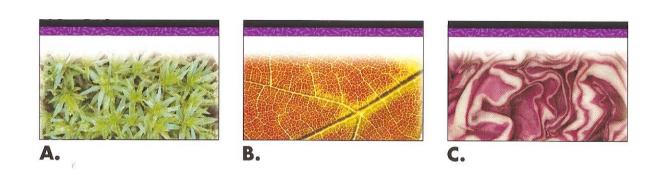




It is spring. These young leaves have just appeared.
Where were they all winter?
They were packed inside a bud.

All winter the maple tree has no leaves, but it has many buds. Buds are little cases that protect the tiny leaves inside. In spring, sap flows through the trees. The buds swell. The leaves inside are growing larger and larger. One day the buds burst open. Now the tree has leaves.













Look closely. What do you see?



A. Moss



B. Fall foliage



C. Cabbage



D. Fern



E. Leaf miner



F. Sundew



G. Maple

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