

FLOWER & LEAF PRESS

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SAFETY

WARNING!

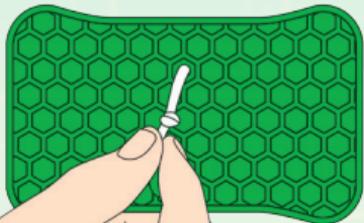
Not suitable for children under 3 years. There is a risk of choking due to small parts that can be swallowed or inhaled. There is a risk of strangulation if long strings or cords are placed around the neck.

Keep the packaging and instructions, as they contain important information.

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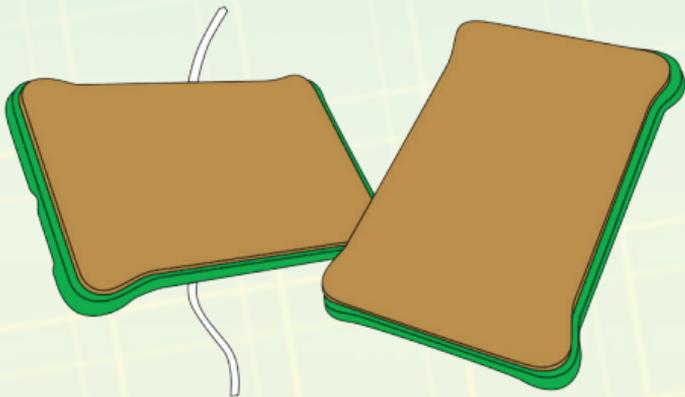
The plant press is a fun way to preserve flowers and leaves for a variety of crafts and projects. Before you can start, you need to collect flowers and leaves! Make sure that any botanical collection trips are done with adult supervision. Flowers and leaves are all around you! If you don't have flowers and leaves growing in your yard or garden, can you find them in a park or florist? Is there a houseplant or flower arrangement that can offer a leaf or flower? But always ask permission before taking plants or cuttings!

EXPERIMENT: PRESSING PLANTS



1. Thread one end of the string through the hole in the top plate of the plant press. Make a knot to keep it from slipping back through the hole.

2. Put the cardboard pieces in place on the inside of each plate.

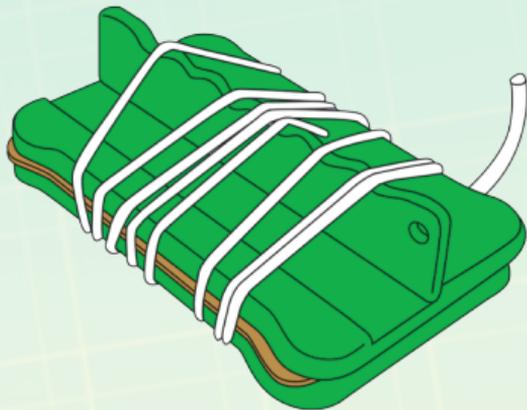


3. Cut some pieces of paper to fit in the press. Place your collected flowers or leaves neatly on the paper. Place a second piece of paper on top, between the plants and the top cardboard.



4. Sandwich the plates together, place the zig-zag presser fin in place, and wrap the string around the entire press many times.





5. Wrap almost the whole length of string around the press. Pull the end of the string through the hole in the presser fin and tuck it tightly under the wound-up loops of string on the bottom to secure it.

6. Rotate the presser fin to lift the zig-zag side upward, so that the presser fin is at a right angle to the press. This will pull the string even tighter and put more pressure on the plates, which will make the plant press more effective.



7. While pressing your plants, keep the press in a warm, dry place. Most thin leaves and flowers will dry in five to seven days. Thicker plants will take longer and may require more absorbent paper. Once the water is removed from plants, they will last a long time. They will fade in sunlight, so be sure to keep them protected from the sun.

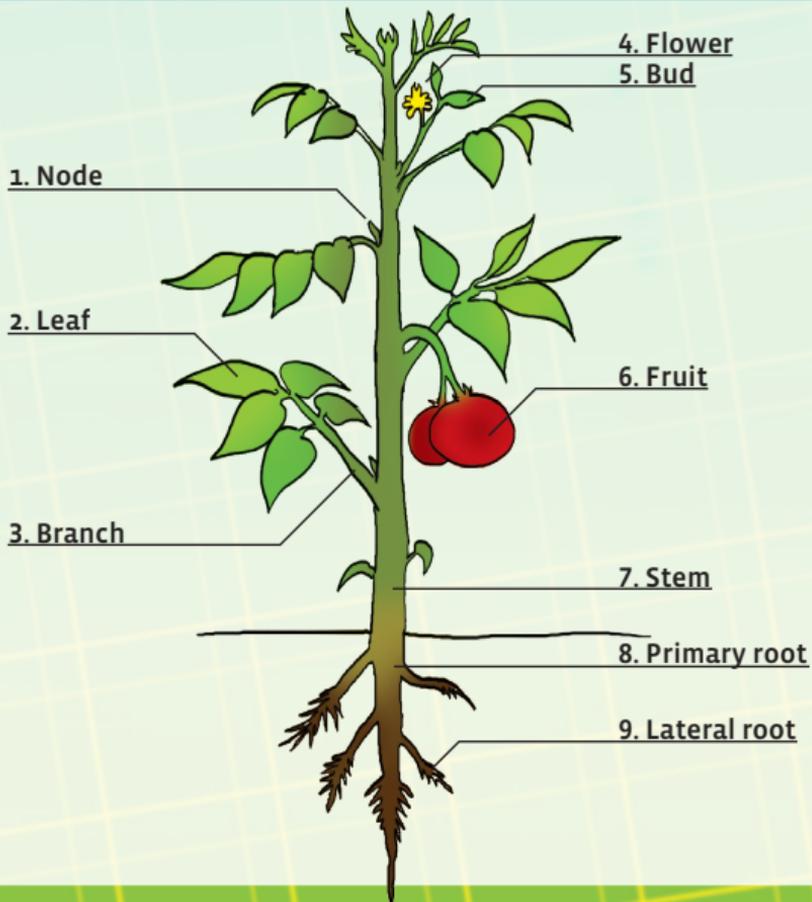
After you have pressed some nice flowers and leaves, you can use them to make crafts and art projects. Here are some ideas:

Stationary
Picture frames
Journals or scrapbooks
Book covers

Collages
Candles
Magnets
Thank you cards



THE PARTS OF A PLANT



WHY ARE LEAVES GREEN?

Most plants are green! And there is a very important reason for that. The leaves use this green coloring to capture sunlight and produce sugar and oxygen from water and air (more precisely, the gas carbon dioxide). This process is known as **photosynthesis**. It's a hard word to pronounce, but the process is very important for plants and for us humans too. The plants are able to make new leaves with the sugar. And we humans need the oxygen to breathe!

Flowers have evolved to have all sorts of different colors because the colors attract more animals, such as bees. The bees **pollinate** the flowers so they can reproduce. Other animals eat the fruits of the trees and carry the seeds to grow in new places!

