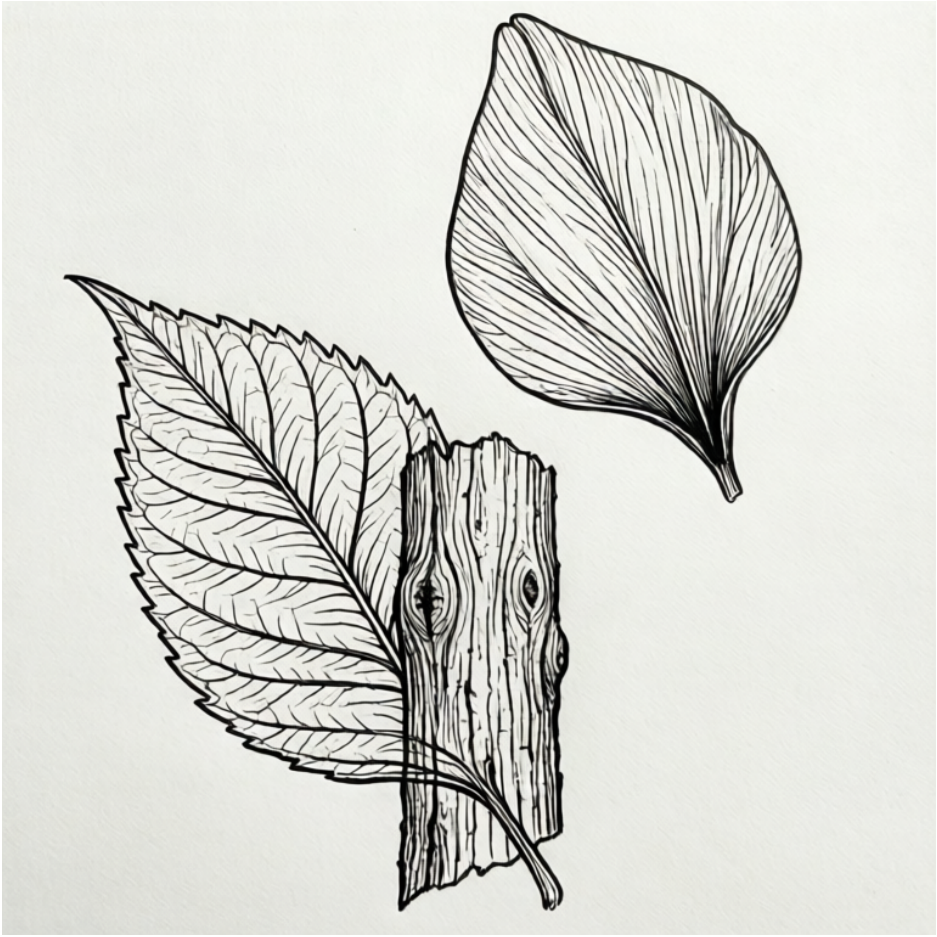
Cross-Contour Nature Drawing: Leaf and Bark Studies

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

Cross-Contour Nature Drawing: Leaf and Bark Studies

Worked example / complete source key

A leaf is 10 cm long and 5 cm wide. It cups upward along the midrib, and the tip curls down slightly. Describe where you would place three cross-contour lines and how they would curve.

Answer: Place one line across the widest part, about 4 cm from the base. Because the leaf cups upward, this line should bow toward the midrib on both sides, forming a shallow U shape. Place a second line about 7 cm from the base, where the leaf begins to narrow; this line should curve more tightly because the surface is changing. Place a third line near the tip, about 9 cm from the base; since the tip curls down, this line should curve in the opposite direction, bowing away from the midrib. Spacing is wider near the base and tighter near the tip.