On the Margin

Purpose
To demonstrate the margin of broad leaves.

Materials
Sheet of 9-by-12-inch (22.5-by-30-cm) green construction paper
Pencil    Scissors    Marker
Transparent tape

Procedure
1. Fold the green paper in half.
2. Use the pencil to draw the outlines of half of three leaves on the fold as shown.
3. Cut along the lines through both layers of paper.
4. Unfold the three leaves and tape them to the white paper.
5. Use the marker to label each leaf as shown. Title the paper “Leaf Margins.”

Results
You have made a diagram of broadleaf margins.

Why? The edge of a broad leaf is called the leaf margin. There are three types of margins: entire, toothed, and lobed. Entire margins are smooth and unbroken, as on dogwood and ash trees. Toothed margins can be large and blunt, as on beech trees, or small and sharp, as on elm trees. Lobed margins have extensions, some of which look like earlobes, hence the name. In identifying leaf margins, first determine whether the leaf is lobed or not lobed. Then determine whether the margins are entire or toothed. Lobed margins can be entire as on sassafras trees or toothed as on sycamore trees. In this model, the lobed leaf is entire.