

# Leaves for extreme climates

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This task is about identifying features of adaptation.

Read the information in the box below about the jobs leaves do for plants.

Leaves do three main important jobs for plants:

- Leaves use sunlight to make food.
- Leaves help plants "breathe".
- Water travels up from the roots and passes out of the leaves, which keeps water supplies moving through the plant.

Now for each picture of leaves:

- Read the information about the leaves and the plant that they come from;
- Describe how the special features of the leaves help that plant survive in its environment

(The first one is done for you.)

a)  **Where the plant is adapted to grow:** In cold snowy places.

**Description of the leaves:** The leaves are long and thin with a waxy coating. There are a lot of them.

**How the special features of the leaves help the plant grow in cold snowy places:**

- There are lots of leaves so the tree can "make food" even though the leaves are small and there is not a lot of sunlight.
- The waxy coating helps save water when the tree can't get water from the frozen ground.

b)  **Where the plant is adapted to grow:** In shady places under bigger trees.

**Description of the leaves:** Its leaves are quite large.

**How the special features of the leaves help the plant grow in shady places:**

c)  **Where the plant is adapted to grow:** In water.

**Description of the leaves:** Its leaf has a waxy coating and many air spaces. When you look at it through a microscope you can see lots of little holes on top.

**How the special features of the leaves help the plant grow in water:**

d)  **Where the plant is adapted to grow:** In very hot, dry places.

**Description of the leaves:** The leaves look more like a prickly than a leaf.

**How the special features of the leaves help the plant grow in very hot dry places:**