Vascular Plants vs. Nonvascular Plants

Plants are broken down into two main groups. They are either vascular or nonvascular.

Nonvascular Plants include the mosses, liverworts and hornworts. These are also called bryophytes. They are small, short plants found in wet places. Their gametophyte generation dominates. The sporophyte generation grows from it and depends on it for food.

Vascular plants make up about 80% of all plants. They have special tissues in their stems to move water and nutrients up and down the plant. This allows the plant to grow to a much larger size. They are also characterized by their reproductive phase. In vascular plants the sporophyte generation is dominant.

Vascular plants are broken down into three groups:

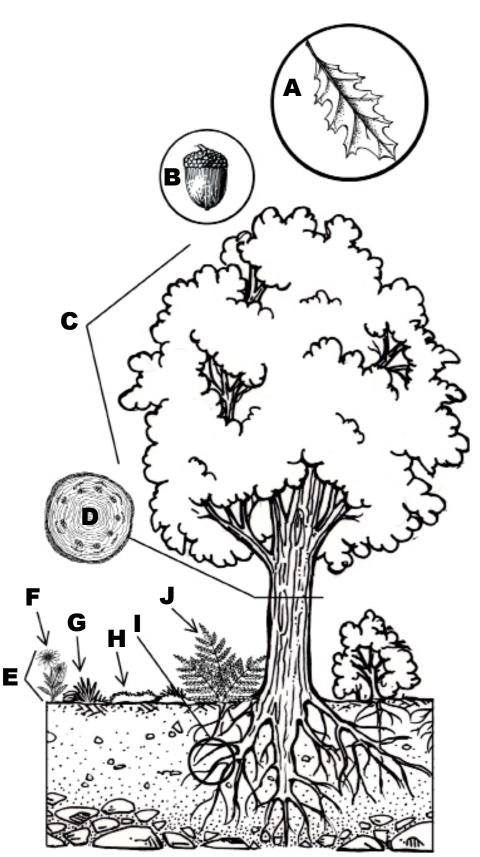
- 1. Seedless vascular plants the ferns, horsetails and clubmosses.
- 2. Naked seed vascular plants the conifers.
- 3. Protected seed vascular plants the flowering plants, grasses and deciduous trees.

Use the following poster to illustrate the differences. Then try the Plant Terminology Quiz.

Match the Description to the Plant Structure

- ____ 1. photosynthetic sunlight collection structure
- _____ 2. structure that houses reproductive organs for pollination
- _____ 3. embryonic plant ready for dispersal
- _____ 4. hydration collection structure
- _____ 5. nonvascular, non-seed-bearing, green plant
- _____ 6. vascular, non-seed-bearing, green plant
- _____7. vascular, seed-bearing, herbaceous plant
- _____ 8.vascular, seed-bearing, woody plant
- 9. cultivated leaves used to carpet large areas
 - ____ 10. structure that houses xylem transport system

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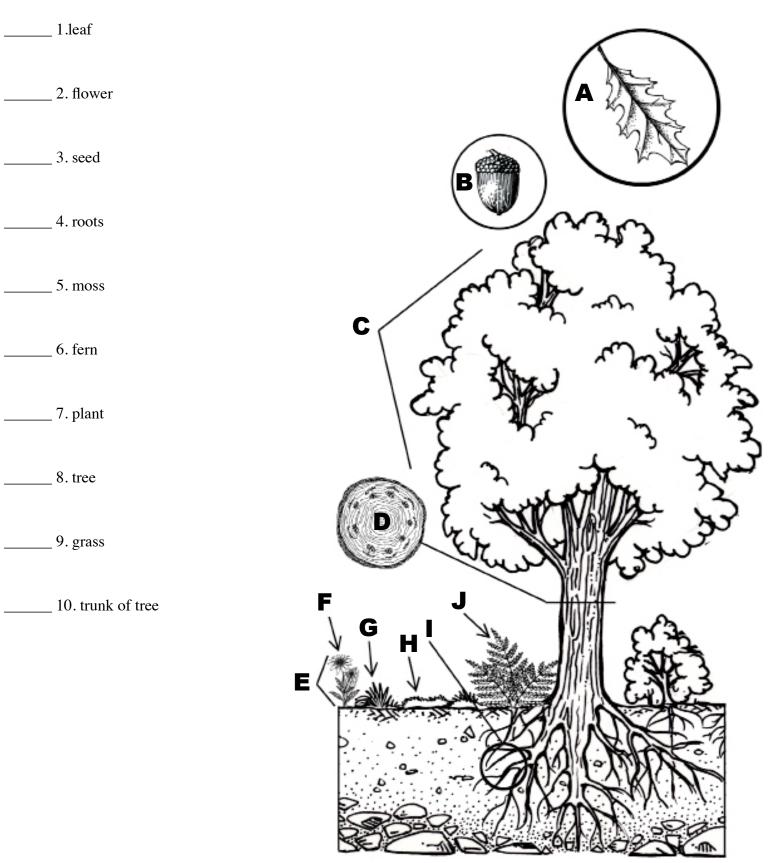
Match and Name the Plant Structure to the Description

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Match the Name to the Plant Structure



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