

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

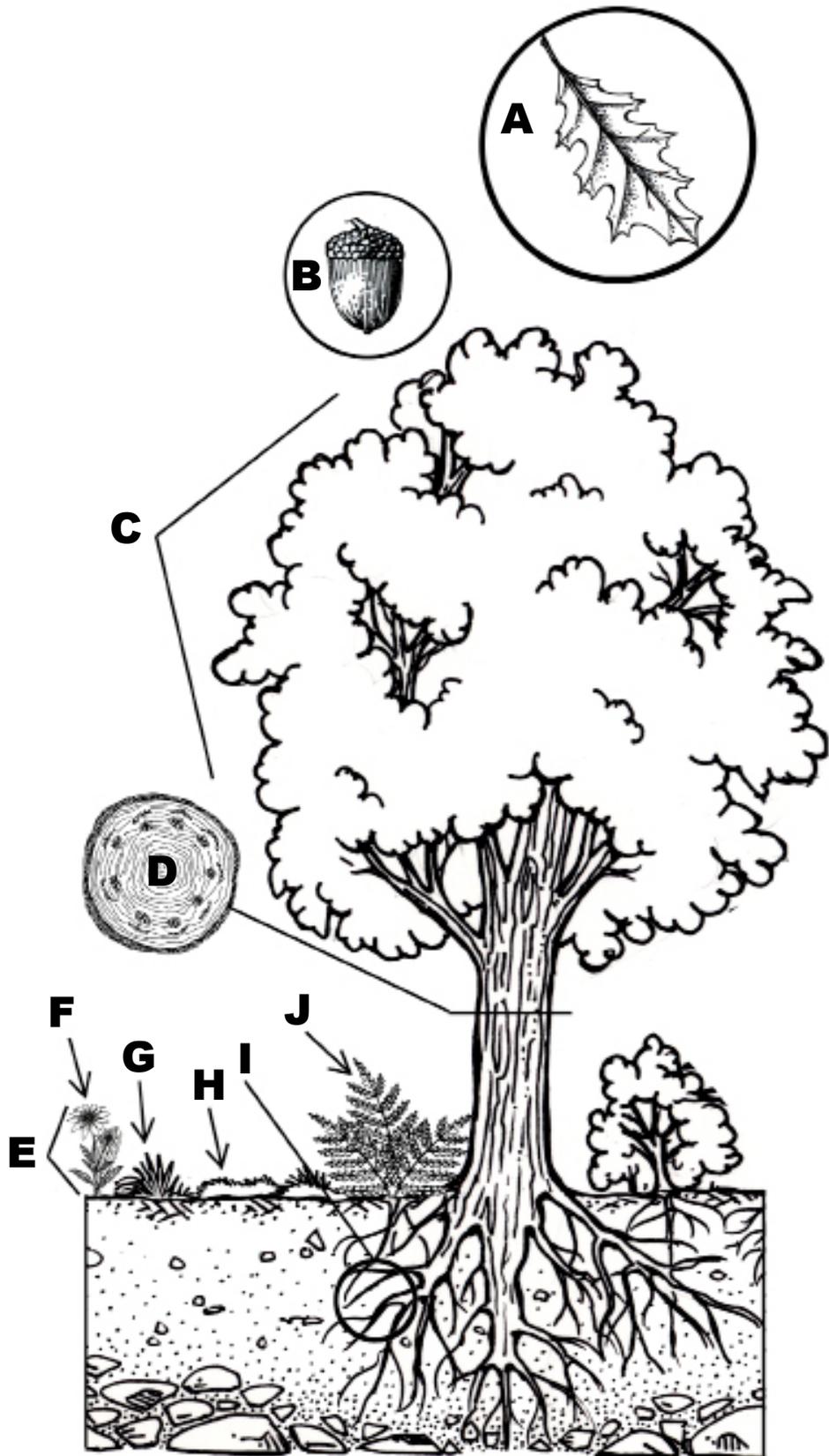
___ 6. vascular, non-seed-bearing, green plant

___ 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



Match and Name the Plant Structure to the Description

_____ 1. photosynthetic
sunlight collection structure

_____ 2. structure that
houses reproductive organs for pollination

_____ 3. embryonic plant
ready for dispersal

_____ 4. hydration
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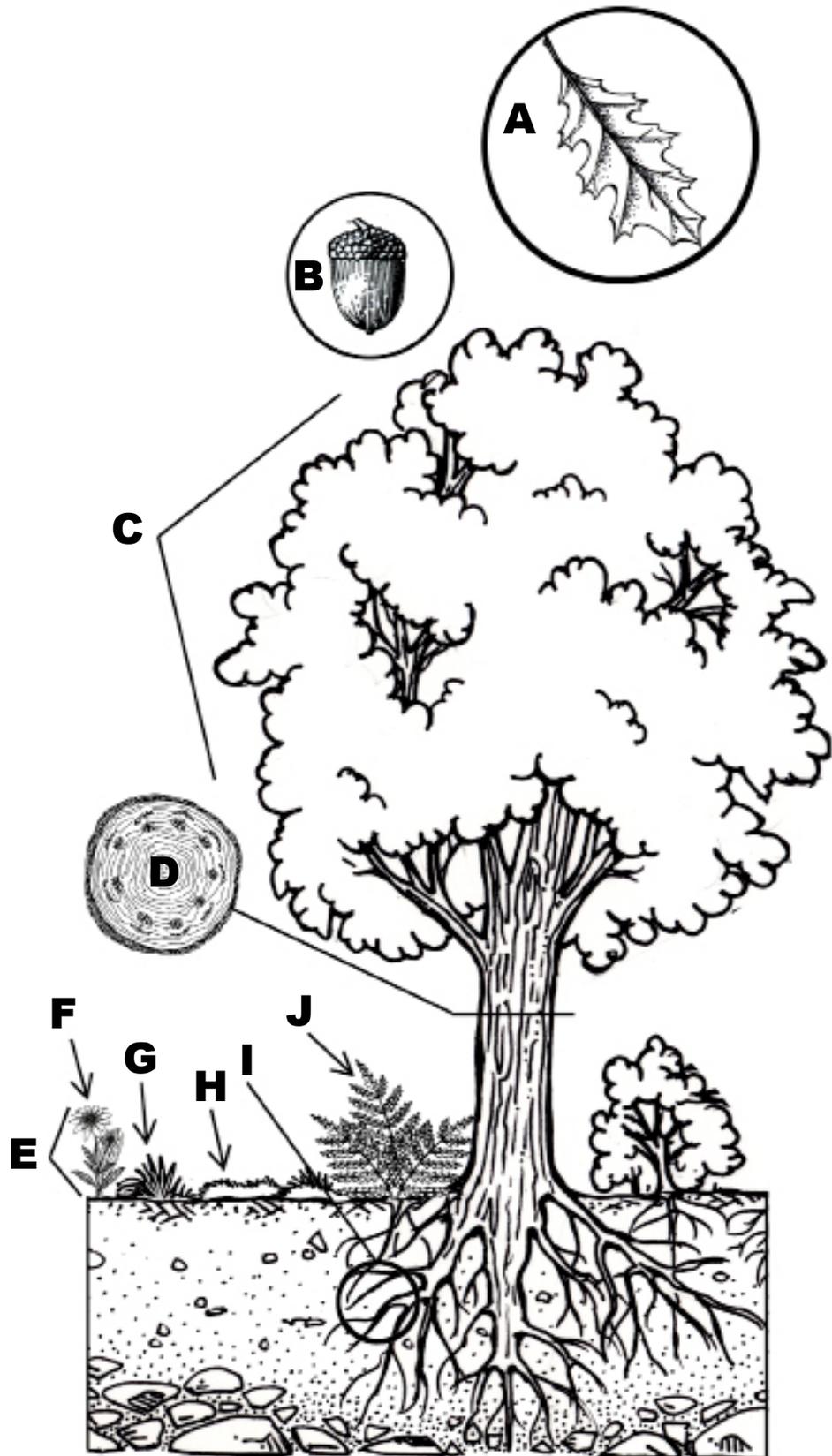
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Match the Name to the Plant Structure

- _____ 1. leaf
- _____ 2. flower
- _____ 3. seed
- _____ 4. roots
- _____ 5. moss
- _____ 6. fern
- _____ 7. plant
- _____ 8. tree
- _____ 9. grass
- _____ 10. trunk of tree

