There are two main systems in a plant, the root system and the shoot system. The shoot system is made up of leaves, stems and flowers. Today we will focus on the details of the leaves and stems.

**Figure 1. The shoot system in flowering plants**

1) **Leaf**: A leaf is made up of two parts: a *blade* and a *petiole*. You can identify a leaf because it will have a bud between the lowest part of its petiole and the stem (careful, this can be tricky because sometimes the bud is very small!).

2) **Stem**: The stem is the skeleton of the plant. “Stem” can refer to any part of the branching system of the plant.
Use this whole page to draw your plant:
Words to describe plants

1) Leaf arrangement: Leaves can be arranged around the stem in three ways:

- *alternate* leaves
- *opposite* leaves
- *whorled* leaves

My plant has _______________ leaves.

2) Leaf Type: A leaf can either be *simple* or *compound*. A simple leaf has one blade. A compound leaf has many blades.

- *simple* leaf
- *compound* leaf

My plant has _______________ leaves.

3) Leaf Shape: Leaves can be many shapes!

- *lanceolate*
- *deltate*
- *linear*
- *ovate*
- *lobed*

My plant has _______________-shaped leaves.