**THE BASIC ANATOMY OF THE TREE**

The parts of all plants are the same, even though they don’t always look alike, and their main parts are:

**Roots**: they serve two major purposes; they anchor the plant and they absorb water and necessary nutrients.

**Stem or Trunk**: You can think of this part of the plant as a pair of plumbing pipes, one inside the other, wrapped in bark. The inner pipe carries water and minerals from the roots up to the branches, leaves, flowers and fruit. The outer pipe carries food down from the leaves to the rest of the plant. Another function of the stem is obviously the support of branches, leaves, flowers and fruit.

**Branches**: They serve as a framework for the leaves and are named according to their position on the trunk. The **leader** is the central, highest branch; a continuation of the trunk itself. **Scaffold branches** are the main side branches. **Lateral** branches emerge horizontally from scaffold limbs. **Hangers** are lateral fruit-tree branches that drop after bearing the weight of the previous year’s crop. **Spurs** are the short twigs or branchlets that bear flowers and fruit. **Suckers** are leafy shoots that sprout at a tree’s **crown** or from its roots. Because they may rob the plant of nutrients and water, they normally should be removed. **Water sprouts** are **shoots** that grow above **the pruned parts** of a tree.

**Leaves**: Food is manufactured mainly in the leaves by the sun. The process of **photosynthesis** creates **carbohydrates** through the action of **chlorophyll** in the leaves combined with the energy of the sun.

**Flowers and fruits**: Flowers are the sexual portion of plants that produce **seeds for reproduction**.

**Questions**

1. What are the main parts of a tree?

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1. Which two major purposes do the roots serve?

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1. Refer to the three functions of the stem.

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4. eaves are “the food factory” of the tree. Explain the process.

**EXERCISE**

Translate the following words in Greek.

Stem=

Trunk=

Branch=

Twig=

Branchlet=a small branch

Carbohydrates=

Bearing=

Lateral=πλάγιος

Sprout=βλαστάρι

Shoot=φυντανάκι

Scaffold=σκαλωσιά

Roots=

Prune=κλαδεύω

Combined=

Photosynthesis=

Chlorophyll=

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