

## How do Plants use their Resources?

**Question:** What can you conclude about leaf area and leaf dry matter content from riparian plants versus desert plants?

**Instructions:** As a group, choose 2 plants that catch your attention from what I collected from the river area. Use the graph paper to calculate the area. You will also measure the wet mass of each leaf.

### Riparian Species

Riparian (species)	Leaf Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Wet Mass (g)	Dry Mass (g)	Leaf Dry Matter Content (Dry mass/Wet mass)

**Instructions:** As a group, collect 2 different leaves from 2 different plants that catch your attention outside. You must identify the species and calculate area and wet mass.

### Desert Species

Desert (species)	Leaf Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Wet Mass (g)	Dry Mass (g)	Leaf Dry Matter Content (Dry mass/Wet mass)

**Next Step:** Choose **one** or more of the pieces of data to graph in order to make a visual representation of your information. You **don't** have to graph all 4 pieces of data!

**Conclusion Questions:**

1. What does your graph tell us?
2. Which type of resources do plants need to survive?
3. Which types of plants are using their resources and which are conserving their resources? How do you know? (use the tables as evidence)
4. Why do some plants have a bigger leaf area than others?
5. If we were looking at the height of the plant, which type of plants would have less height and why? What about more height?