

## A Classroom Demonstration for *The Life of a Leaf*

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### **Supportive Systems (Page 228):**

Each of the supportive systems illustrated in figures 12.6 and 12.8 can be demonstrated with models two or three feet tall. (a) For compressive buttressing, use a vertical 2 x 2 with four bottom supports nailed on, one on each face. The supports need be no more than simply right triangles of 1/4" plywood. (b) Taprooting takes nothing more than a pointed pole pushed down into a bucket of sand. (c) For tensile buttressing, attach a base plate beneath a 1 x 1 pole with a single nail from below. Instead of each triangles used in the previous model use a diagonal cord between two eye-screws (or, if fancy, wire and turnbuckle) plus triangles of corrugated cardboard, the latter taped on to emphasize the minimal role of all but the outer portion.