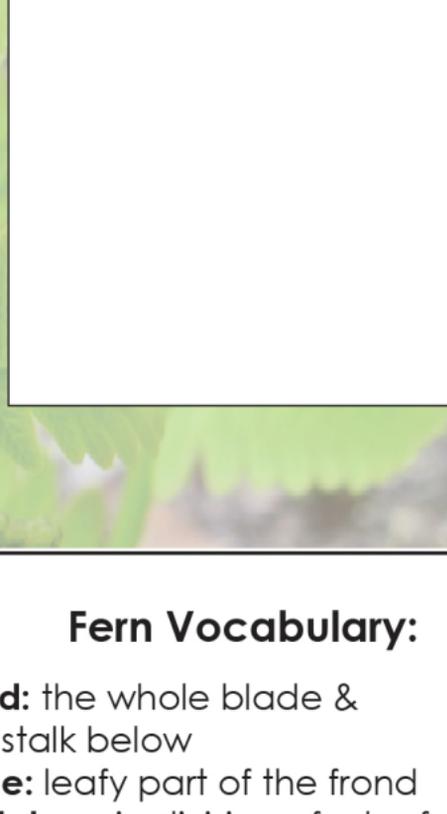


# POCKET Nature Journal

## Ferns



### Fern Vocabulary:

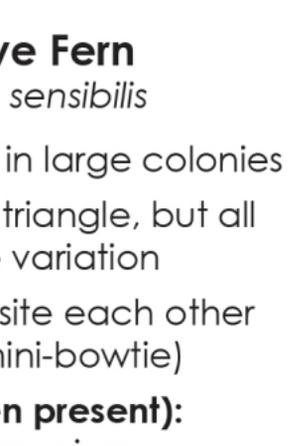
- Fron**d: the whole blade & the stalk below  
**Blade**: leafy part of the frond  
**Leaflet**: main division of a leaf  
**Fertile Fronds**: leaves that bear sori or the frond's reproductive spore cases  
**Crosier**: fiddlehead or curled up frond of an emerging fern



### Christmas Fern

*Polystichum acrostichoides*

- Traits**: Grows in free-form clusters, evergreen  
**Blade**: Dark green & narrows at tip  
**Leaflet**: A bump near the stalk toe of Christmas stocking or Santa sitting in his sleigh behind his reindeer). Stalk below the blade completely covered in scales  
**Fertile Fronds (when present)**: On upper portion of blade that is reduced in size  
**Crosier**: Covered with silvery white scales  
**Habitat**: Forest



### Sensitive Fern

*Onoclea sensibilis*

- Traits**: Fronds grow in large colonies  
**Blade**: In shape of triangle, but all blades have some variation  
**Leaflet**: Pairs opposite each other (each forming a mini-bowtie)  
**Fertile Fronds (when present)**: Bead-like clusters growing on separate stalks (begin as blue-green beads that turn brown and persist through winter) First to turn yellowish-brown in late summer (sensitive to cooler temps)  
**Crosier**: Pale red  
**Habitat**: Moist condition in sun and shade



### Cinnamon Fern

*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*

- Traits**: Fronds grow in vase-like cluster  
**Blade**: Broadest at center  
**Leaflets**: Have tiny cinnamon-colored woolly tufts near stalk (hairy under-arms). Leaflets quite pointy  
**Fertile Fronds (when present)**: Separate stalk that grows in center of vase & begins as aquamarine & turns cinnamon as it matures. Fronds eventually turn burnt orange & then brown  
**Crosier**: Circular, densely covered with whitish-cinnamon hairs  
**Habitat**: Wet areas, including bogs, swamps, and along stream banks



### Activities

- Fern Prints**  
**Materials**:
- paper or fabric
  - paint (acrylic or poster works best)
  - Foam brush, paint brush or small paint roller
  - disposable or reusable plate
  - newspaper
  - collected ferns and leaves
- Instructions**:
1. Collect a few examples of ferns.
  2. Squirt paint on the plate- you can use one color or make a rainbow.
  3. Place your fern on the newspaper.
  - 4 Use the brush to apply a thin layer of paint to the fern.
  5. Peel the fern off and place it paint side down on your paper or fabric.
  6. Place another piece of newspaper on top to make a fern and paper sandwich.
  7. Using your hands apply firm pressure over the fern.
  8. Peel the layers away to reveal your botanical art!

### Nature Quote:

**Dr. Kathleen Pryer**

*Duke College Professor of Biology*

*Dr. Pryer led the research team that discovered a new genus of ferns in Costa Rica, and named it the Gaga group, after androgynous singer, Lady Gaga.*

*"Lady Gaga is an amazing champion for equality and compassion, and we wanted to give her a scientific name-sake that characterizes the struggle we have in biology for understanding diversity in humanity, in all of biology, and even in ferns."*

*For the rest of this quote and more information about Dr. Kathleen Pryer's work visit:*  
[www.wflmaine.org/nature-activities](http://www.wflmaine.org/nature-activities)



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