

### **Three Slices of Nature**

The leaf, one of the most common things in all of nature, found in places across the globe, is an integral part of an even bigger organism, the tree. There are thousands of types of trees, and they all produce different types of leaves. The leaves slowly begin to fall off of the trees in the fall season, which creates beautiful displays of nature on the ground for anyone to look at.

This small, seemingly insignificant piece of nature, of which there are millions, holds many secrets within its tiny body. Upon closer inspection of a leaf one may find that the irregular pattern of criss-crossing lines looks strikingly similar to the patterns of a human hand. In this way the leaf can be seen as the hand of the tree, reaching out and growing into the sunlight. The main supports of the leaf all branch out from the stem and help the leaf grow and thrive, similar to veins of the human hand.

The stick, an extremely useful tool for human survival, has been used for thousands of years to create everything from weapons to fire and beyond. Like the leaf, it is also a small, broken part of the tree that seems to show up so often in nature.

On closer inspection of the stick, its features begin to resemble that of a human arm, specifically the many dimples and imperfections of a stick, which are very similar to an arm. While on a tree, the stick also serves a very similar purpose to that of an arm; to hold up the leaves, or the “hands” of the tree.

Finally, the rock, found everywhere from beaches to towering cliff sides, was created by hundreds or even thousands of years of erosion on large cliffs and boulders, when this erosion happens, the empty space left over is used to give humans shelter, and the rocks loosened by the erosion are used to make many other things.

The rocks that you probably find in the forest, or your backyard are only small pieces of the larger boulders and cliffs that they come from. Rocks can be seen like the human body and skin, in that they greatly differ from one another in size and color, and they come from larger versions of themselves.

Looking back on all of this, it's very clear why the name "Mother Nature" is often used to describe everything you see around you while in the wilderness. It's because of the overwhelming resemblance to the human body that Mother Nature has, being that it reaches out to the rest of the world through trees, which are its arms and hands, and it supports all life within it by providing solid ground and shelter in the form of rocks. In turn we have to give back to mother nature, and help it grow and thrive into what it should be.