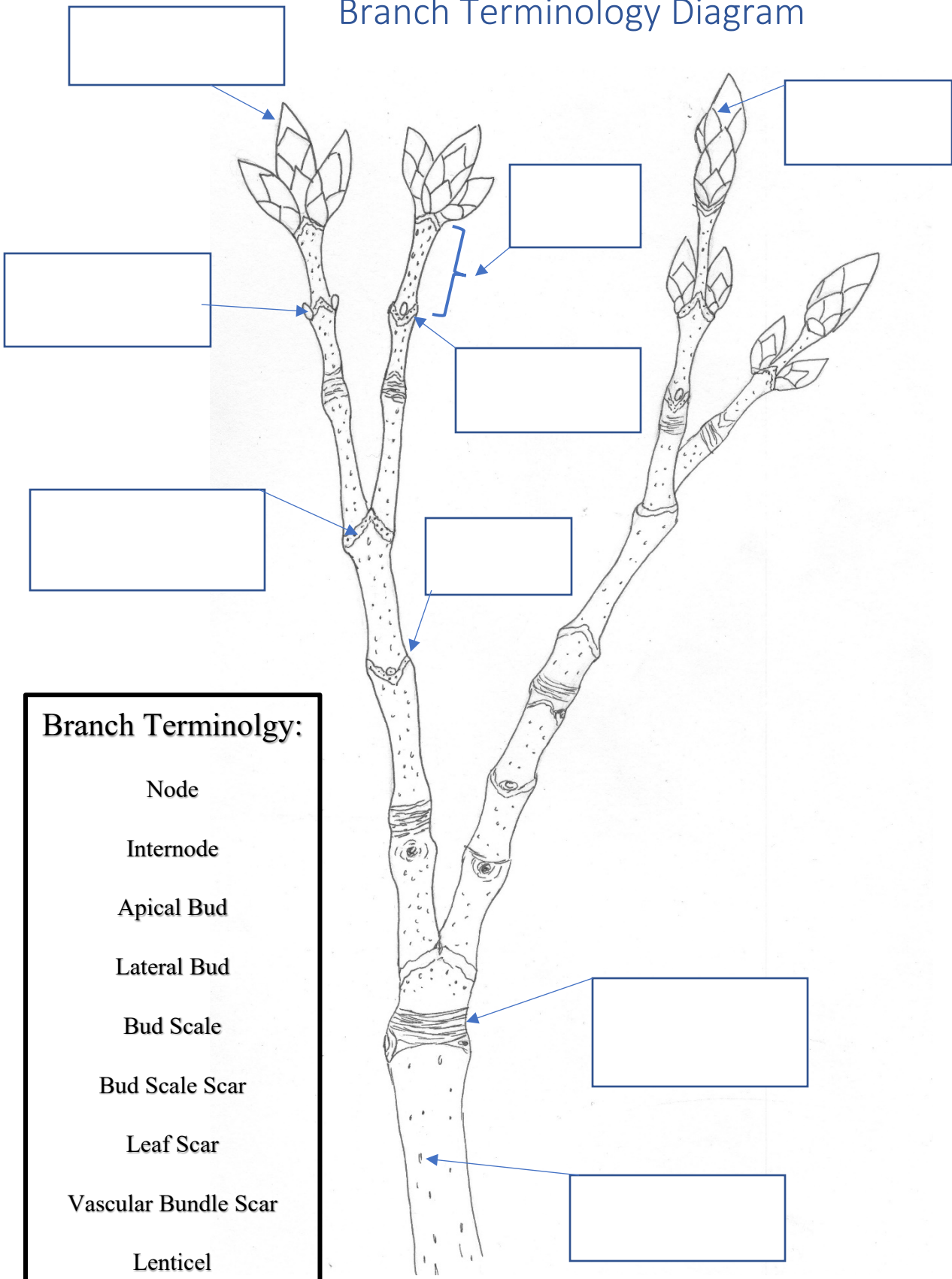


Branch Terminology Diagram



- Branch Terminology:**
- Node
 - Internode
 - Apical Bud
 - Lateral Bud
 - Bud Scale
 - Bud Scale Scar
 - Leaf Scar
 - Vascular Bundle Scar
 - Lenticel

Helpful Winter ID Terminology

Alternate arrangement – Branches and buds alternate from side to side along the stem. This is the most common arrangement.

Bud – A bundle of tiny leaves and flowers waiting to burst forth in spring. Occur at tips and along the branch. Sometimes protected by bud scales, and sometimes naked.

Bud Scale – A protective covering along a bud. Often appears as a series of overlapped scales, like fish scales. Number of bud scales can aid in identification. Some buds have no bud scales, and are naked.

Bud Scale Scar – Appears as a ring of lines around the stem. Shows the location of the terminal bud and the bud scales in the previous year. Can be used to determine the growth rate of a plant.

Decurrent – A growth pattern in trees where branches spread outwards with many leaders. No single trunk dominates. This is common in deciduous trees.

Excurrent – A growth pattern in trees where there is one main trunk that forms as the leader. This is common in coniferous trees, but happens in some species of deciduous trees.

Growth habit – The way a plant grows based on their genetic patterns. How the plant appears from a distance, including their shape, height and form..

Immature (young) bark – The youngest bark on the tree occurs at the tips of the branches. Young bark is often smoother, thinner and more colourful.

Lateral bud – Buds along the stem, not at the tip of the branch. These buds are often smaller than the terminal bud. Also known as axillary buds.

Leaf Scar – Below or around a bud you will find leaf scars. They mark the point where the leaf was attached to the stem in a previous year. They can be distinctive and unique to each species, but are often very small, making them more difficult to observe without a hand lens.

Lenticel – A small breathing hole on the stem of the plant. Appears as a small gray or brown dot. Usually most visible on younger stems. Not visible on all plants.

Mature bark – As a tree ages, the bark often changes, becoming thicker, more furrowed or a different colour. The oldest bark is at the base of the tree, and as you go upwards the bark become younger.

Opposite arrangement – Buds and branch grow out opposite from each other along the stem. This is a less common arrangement.

Pith – The centre of the branch. Usually solid on most plants, but sometimes hollow or with chambers.

Samara – A dry fruit that has a wing-like extension, such as those seen on Maples and Ashes.

Terminal bud – Also known as the apical bud. This is the bud at the end of the branches. Is often larger than other buds.

Vascular bundle scar – Within a leaf scar, there are small darker coloured dots. These are the location where the leaf veins were attached to the stem, and where the water and sugars were moved