

Northern Maidenhair Fern

(*Adiantum pedatum*)



Flora
Fauna



Until the sixteenth century,
people thought ferns had
invisible seeds!

Explore Idaho
with Scout the Fox!

Scout



How to Identify:

- Graceful arching fronds.
- Wiry stem is black to purplish-brown in color.
- Fronds sixteen to twenty-six inches tall.
- Blades are flat and fan-shaped, they look a little bit like tiny palm trees.

Habitat:

- Moist forests.
- Sometimes on rocky slopes.
- Ferns help to hold the soil in place during rains and floods.

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More Fun Facts!

- The leaves shed rainwater and appear to stay dry.
- Often grows in colonies.
- The developing fiddlehead in spring is red.
- Reproduces with spores not seeds.
- The tiny spores are spread by wind and water.
- Native ferns are important in the ecology of the forest.
- The photo shown was taken in Dworshak State Park.
- A fern leaf is called a frond.
- If you want to grow a fern in your garden, it is best to purchase it from a nursery.
- Small insects drink the juice of the leaves.





Portals to Parks



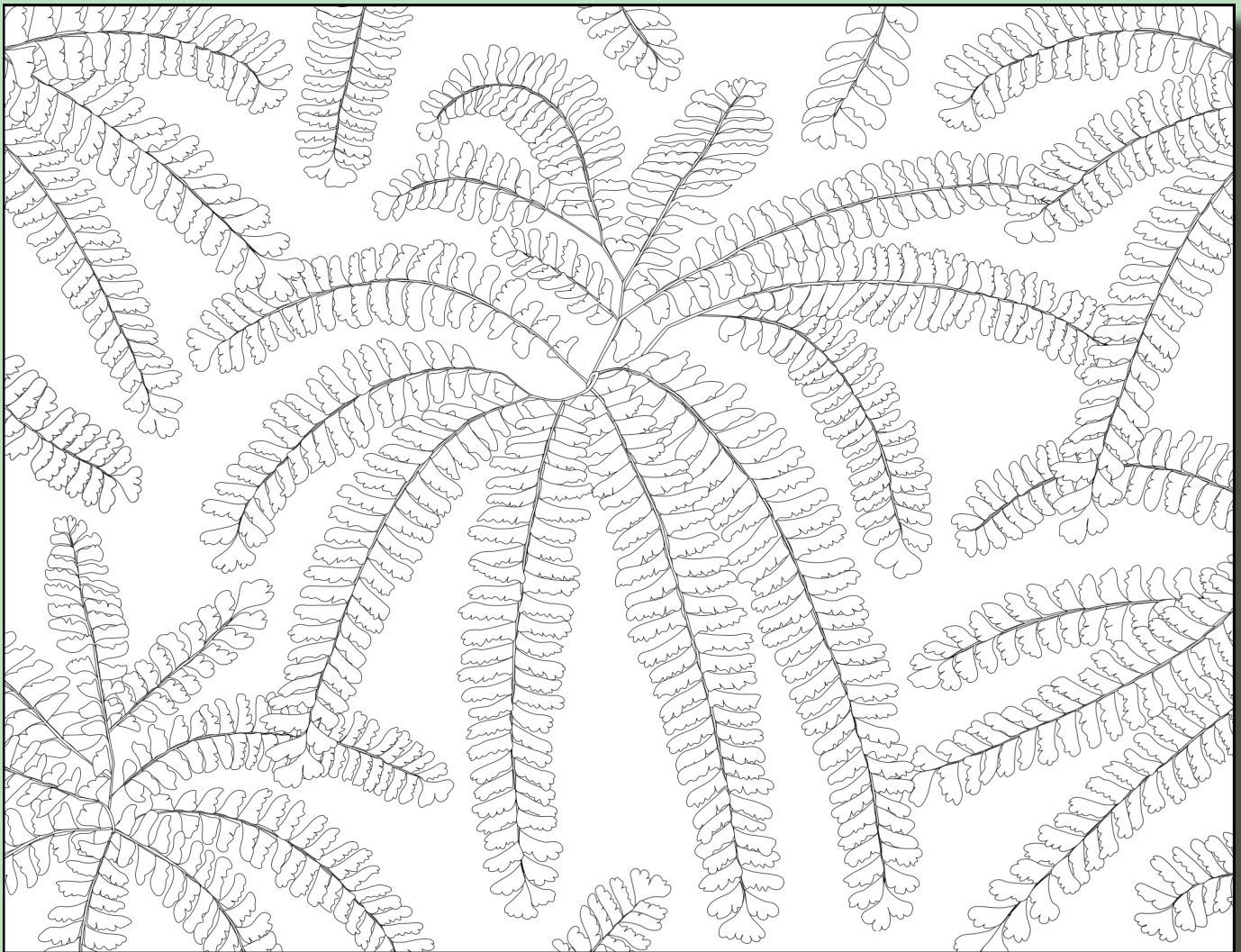
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COLOR ME



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Help Protect the Maidenhair Fern

- Support conservation of natural areas.
- Do not pick wild native plants in the forest.
- Stay on hiking trails.
- Keep your dog on a leash on hikes.

ACTIVITY TIME

1. Once the microscope was invented around 1590, what part of a fern plant could scientists see?

2. Ferns have no flowers--why not?

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