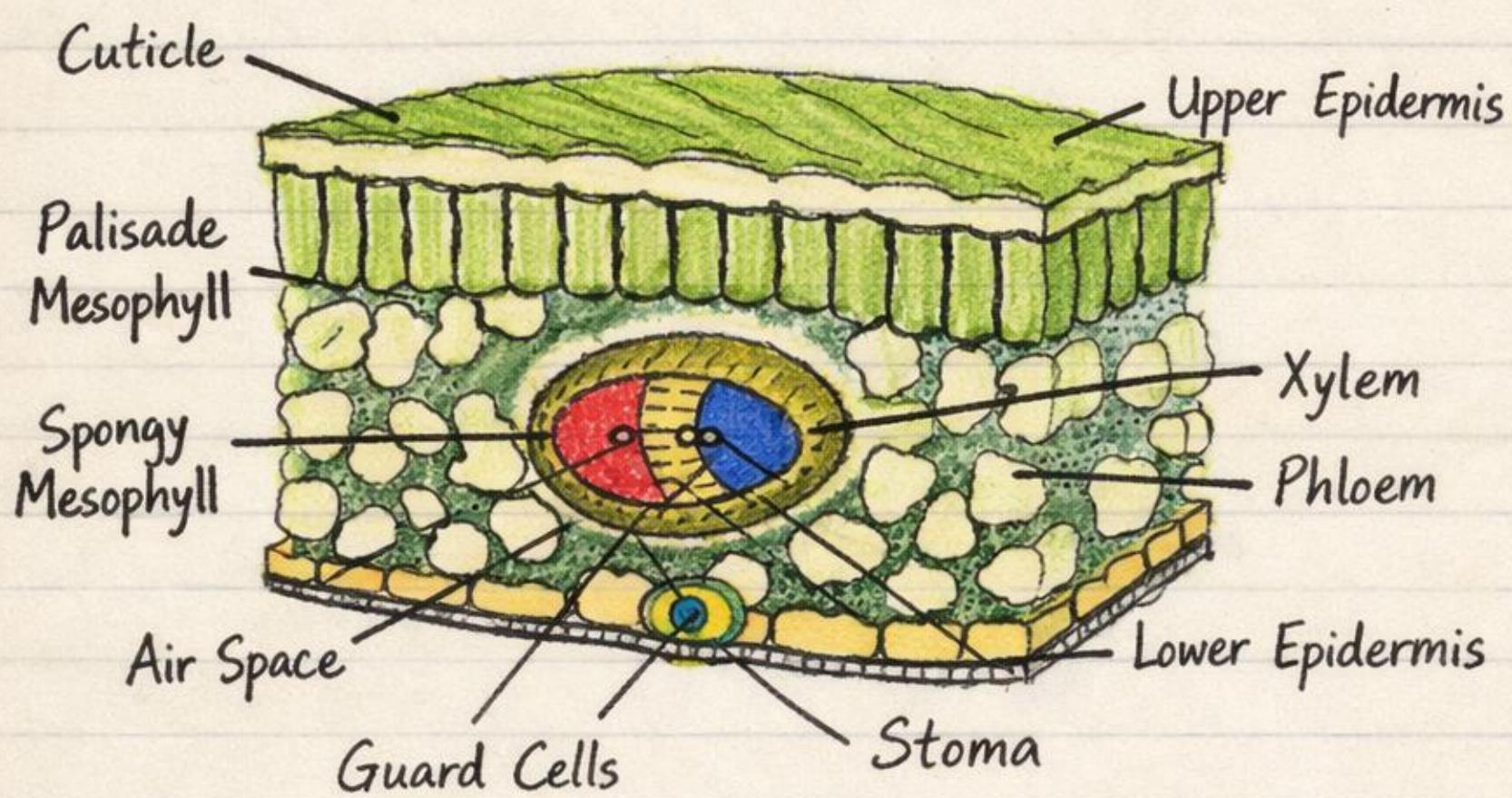


Structure of a Leaf

The leaf is the primary site of photosynthesis in plants. It is composed of several distinct structures that work together to facilitate this process. Below is a labeled diagram of a typical dicot leaf, showing its internal anatomy.

Figure 1: Diagram of a Leaf



The cuticle is a waxy layer that covers the leaf's surface. The palisade mesophyll contains chloroplasts for photosynthesis, while the spongy mesophyll has air spaces for gas exchange. The vascular bundle includes the xylem, which transports water, and the phloem, which carries nutrients.