

Chapter 19

Use with Section 2

ENRICHMENT**● Seedless Plants****Ferns**

The fossil record shows that ferns first appeared almost 400 million years ago. There are many fern species living today. Most of these 1200 fern species live in the tropics, although some live in temperate and arid regions. Ferns vary in size from tiny, mosslike species to giant treelike forms. One treelike form found on Norfolk Island in the South Pacific can reach a height of almost 30 meters. The structure of the fern leaf, or frond, is well adapted to the filtered light of forests. The fronds are widely spaced and divided into leaflets, called pinnae, which are angled to catch the light. The spores of the fern are clustered together in the sori.

Draw a fern and label the parts. Include the terms frond, pinnae, sorus and rhizome.

