



BOOMbox at Home

Leaf Rubbings

The seasons are changing and so are the leaves! As the leaves begin to fall, it is a perfect opportunity for our second at-home activity which is leaf rubbing. Leaf rubbings are a great fall activity that allows you to gently transfer the shape of a leaf on paper. You can explore your neighborhood in the fall to try and find leaves of all different shapes, sizes, colors, and styles. Leaf rubbing allows you to immortalize the shape and structure of the leaf to keep as artwork.

Leaf rubbing uses paper, crayons, and pencils to trace what a leaf or flower looks like. This activity allows us to see the veins, stems, and outline of the leaf more clearly. This activity is better suited for mid to late fall when more leaves have dried and fallen to the ground, but it can be done whenever you can find fallen leaves.

Supplies

- Leaves of different shapes and sizes
- Paper
- Crayons or colored pencils

Instructions

- Gather fallen leaves outside (look for different shapes and sizes!)
- Gather your other materials
- Place one of your leaves on a flat surface, the bumpy texture side of the leaf should be facing up.
- Place the white piece of paper on top of your leaf
- Gently but firmly hold down on top of the piece of paper so the leaf and paper do not move. You can also use some tape to keep your paper in place.

- Gently rub a crayon or pencil over the paper to transfer the leaf's texture and shape. Try pressing harder if the leaf isn't taking shape.
- Once you have the whole leaf – you are finished with your first leaf rubbing! Try different types of leaves and colors to create a collection of leaf rubbings!

Want to explore more?

- Check out PBS Kids step by step instruction on [Leaf and Bark Rubbings](#) for more information!
- PBS Kids also has a great episode about [“Why Leaves Change Color?”](#) to learn more about the changing of seasons.

What will you learn today?

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