

BE THE ARTIST

Painterly Leaf Art

This activity is a simple way to enjoy leaf rubbings and beautiful spontaneous color play while working with negative space.



Supplies

- white or light-colored crayon
- paper
- leaves
- watercolor paints
- paint brush
- water
- paint palette (optional)



Instructions

- Take a walk around your neighborhood and collect some leaves.
- Lay out the leaves with the more textured side facing up. Place a sheet of paper on top of the leaves.
- Rub the side of your crayon over the paper to make an imprint of the texture of the leaves beneath it. At first, you won't see anything, but when you add paint, the texture will appear like magic!
- Mix the paint with lots of water to create a thin, light mixture.
- If you'd like, move the paper off of the leaves and on to a flat surface. This may make it easier to paint. Then, use your paintbrush to paint a thin wash of color on the paper. You may notice that the paint doesn't seem to stick in the places where you used the crayon. The wax of the crayon causes the watercolor paint to bead up, leaving the texture and shape of the leaves white while the rest of the page is filled with color.
- Rinse your brush and change colors as often as you'd like. Experiment with different color combinations and arrangements of leaves.

Send a photo of your project to mycreation@skokielibrary.info and we may feature it on social media.