



LEAF RUBBING GRADE 2-5

Combine art and science in this colourful activity that will teach you more about identifying local species of trees.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- Attention to detail, identification, observation.
- How to record in a nature journal
- How to differentiate between leaves

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES:

- An easy hands-on way for students to learn about the differences and features of leaves.
- To record and interpret data.
- Understanding the fundamental difference between leaves of different trees

MATERIAL

- Leaves from the ground.
- Paper
- Pencil (flat)
- Crayons (enough to share)
- Nature journal or piece of paper

This is an individual or group outdoor activity, it can be done in outdoor spaces of the school, home, backyard, or nearby parks/trails

WHAT TO DO:

1. Collect the leaves from the ground and put them underneath the paper.

2. Rub the paper in the same direction using a flat pencil or stripped crayons.
3. Label the leaf rubbing with a number.
4. Encourage the class to come up with three details of each leaf rubbing and ask them to record these details in their nature journals.
5. Record the original leaf's details instead of rubbing one, such as how it feels, what's the colour, Is it smooth, rough, fuzzy, sticky, wet, etc.?
6. Encourage the class to identify the type of tree the leaf belongs to. If you need help identifying your leaves, feel free to consult resources such as inaturalist.org
7. Check your field guides and see if the observations made are correct. Look for the additional information if missed.

ASSESSMENT:

- Learners are evaluated on their skills of rubbing the leaf used for the observation and recording and clarifying their explanations about leaves' details and features in their nature journal.

EXTENSION:

The class can extend the activity by examining the leaves in different seasons and record the details in their journal and connect it with the weather, sun and why these changes happen with changing seasons.

CREDIT/REFERENCES:

This activity has been modified from the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association [nature journaling activity](#) developed by Elizabeth Thompson