

Leaf Rubbings

This is an easy activity for younger children to get them learning about the outdoors and being creative. It is still enjoyable the older you are, and is a good way to spend a bit of chilled time. The activity is beneficial as it gets you exploring outside and looking at things in detail. We love getting people to appreciate the beauty of nature and creating a love for the outdoors.

What you will need:

A collection of leaves

A selection of crayons (or colouring pencils can work too)

Some pieces of plain paper

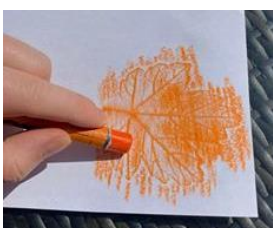


To begin with, go for a walk through the woods, somewhere in nature or explore in your garden to find a variety of leaves in different shapes and sizes. The bigger the range the more exciting your creations are going to be. Look at the veins in each leaf you pick up to see how prominent they are, as the more they stand out the better they will come out on paper.

To do a simple leaf rubbing, lay the leaf so that it is facing downwards on a table. This means the side where the veins show the most is visible to you. The picture shows you which way round the leaf should be. It will work both ways, however this way round will allow the leaf to show up on the paper much better.



Not this way round!



Then lay the paper over the top of that leaf and press down on it slightly. Then grab a crayon and start to colour over the area where the leaf is. Try not to press down too hard with the crayon; you often get a better result with a light hand. This is what some finished rubbings will look like.



To create a full picture, lay some leaves out to the shape and size of your paper as seen here. Then lay the paper on top and colour it all in with different colours and designs. The final product should be a lovely display of colour and nature!

Challenge:

Identify the leaves you are using to create your pictures. What type of tree have they come from? What is the best and easiest way to find this out?