

Leaf Rubbings

Objective:

To generate awareness of the different types of leaves in the schoolyard. To become familiar with different leaf characteristics (including their shape, size, smoothness, etc.)

Background Information:

This activity is appropriate for younger children from kindergarten through second grade. In this lesson, children will choose five leaves from the schoolyard (hopefully from off of the ground). They will learn a method to record the details and the characteristics of these leaves: leaf rubbings. Children will put a piece of paper over the leaf, and rub back and forth lightly with a crayon. For a more successful rubbing, flatter leaves work best, as compared to a branch from a coniferous tree. This lesson can accompany “Preserving Leaves: Making Your Own Leaf Press” if you have time to make a leaf press and preserve the leaves.

Materials:

Leaves
Crayons
Paper (white paper is the best)

Procedure:

1. Ask the students the following questions:
 - What do some of the leaves look like in our schoolyard?
 - Do they have points?
 - Are their edges smooth or rough?
 - What shapes are they?
2. Inform students that they will look at the shapes of leaves carefully in this lesson. They will go out to the schoolyard, collect leaves, and then discover a method to perfectly record what they look like once they are back in the classroom.
3. Tell students that they should each collect five leaves. Encourage them to take leaves that are on the ground rather than from on the trees. Take students outside for ten minutes to find these leaves.
4. Back in the classroom, pass out one copy of “Study of Leaves” to each student.
5. Choose one student to read the directions above the first box (the students should then pick a leaf and draw it as best they can).
6. Once all of the students have drawn their leaves, have them make a leaf rubbing of the same leaf. Place the leaf under the “Study of Leaves” sheet. Take a crayon and rub lightly back and forth (going the same directions (e.g. vertically but not horizontally)). The students should begin to notice a detailed drawing of a leaf on their paper.
7. Pass out extra white paper for the students to make leaf rubbings of all of their leaves.
8. Also mention the importance of leaving the piece of paper and the leaf in the same spot the whole time while making the leaf rubbing.
9. Ask the students if their rubbings of the leaf revealed any new characteristics that they had not noticed before. What are these new characteristics?

Name: _____

Study of Leaves

1. Pick one leaf. Draw the leaf as best you can in the box below:



2. Now make a leaf rubbing of the same leaf in the box below:

