

Indoor Activity: Leaf Tracing

Leaf tracing is a great way to learn how to identify plants. When you trace leaves, you make a copy of that leaf's characteristics. These tracings often give a better look at things like leaf shape, size, and vein patterns. These Characteristics can help you identify what type of tree a leaf came from.

Materials

- Copy paper
- Crayons
- Leaves (please use fallen leaves)

What to do

1. Place your leaf on a flat surface with the leaf's veins facing upward.
2. Lay your copy paper above the leaf.
3. Use your crayon to add color to the areas of your sheet that cover the leaf.



Outdoor Activity: Leaf Collecting

Collecting leaves is a great way to get some hands-on experience with identifying plants. Through this activity, you will learn about the plants in your local area and maybe get a good idea of what animals may also be present. Go on a casual walk through the forest or in a local park to hunt for fallen leaves. Leaves that are brown and brittle make great leaves for tracing!

It is important to be aware of hazards you may come across while on these walks. When leaf collecting, a good thing to keep in mind is identifying Poison Ivy. Poison Ivy is a plant that grows 3 leaves and can cause irritation to skin. These plants can grow from vines or on the ground. When you're out collecting leaves, do your best to avoid leaves of 3!

Materials

- Bag
- Water bottle
- Friends / Family
- Leaf dichotomous key
(Optional)

What to do

1. Fill your water bottle.
2. Grab a small bag to collect leaves in.
3. Bring a friend!
4. Go for a walk through the forest or park.
5. Collect various leaves to study and trace.

