



Leaf art.

Here are some simple activities you can do at any age, plus there are some more challenges further down for older children too. It's all about leaves this time! Finding out more about the different kinds of leaves you might see on your daily walks or other exercise. Don't worry if you haven't got a huge woodland or park near you home because leaves can be found anywhere! If you don't have any crayons, why not using the leaves to make some art on the ground, you could arrange them into a nice circle or a heart or even a rainbow, maybe you could leave it there for others to enjoy.

What you will need:

To go somewhere where there are some leaves, they are everywhere!

A little bag or basket for your collection.

Crayons.

Plain paper.

Pens.

Leaf identification guide (optional) https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/easy_guide_to_forest_trees.pdf

On your walk, try and pay close attention to the different trees and other plants around you. When you find some nice leaves that look good to you, pick a few and put it into your bag but please be careful to only take a few so as not leave the plant healthy.* You might like to use the guide above to try and decide what type of plant the leaves belong to or you might know some already! If you don't have the guide, have a close look at your leaves, can you notice any differences between them; are there different textures, how do they feel in your hand, are they thin or thick, are they prickly or smooth, do smell of anything, why do you think they have these differences?



When you feel you've collected enough there are lots of different things you might like to do next. One idea is to take some rubbings and create a nice picture. IF you haven't done this before, you will need to place the leaves with their veins pointed up (the bumpy bits on the back of the leaves) onto a flat surface with the paper on top and rub with the side of your crayons, you might like to try this first. You can then arrange the leaves into a nice shape, maybe try and make a creature with the leaves for wings, this work really well for example, butterflies or dragons! Feel free to add more details of your creatures with pens to make them come to life. If you like you can cut out your pictures and stick them onto some card, you might even like to send one in the post to a relative or friend that you are missing at the moment?

*(Please be aware that some plants may be irritants to skin and there are others which are toxic, if you are unsure, please err on the side of caution and stick to plants you are familiar with)

Further activities.

If you've finished your picture and you would like to do more, here are some ideas for you.

- ♻️ Tree trumps game. <https://www.forestryengland.uk/resource/tree-trumps> you can download this for free, it's printable. Why not have a go at matching your leaves with these cards to find out even more? Can you find the oldest tree in this pack, it might surprise you? Why not ask a grown up to test your knowledge?
- ♻️ Shades of green. Have you noticed how many different shades (types) of green colour your collected leaves are? Why not try and you order your leaves into a spectrum (from the lightest green to the darkest)? How many different green colours can you name? Have a look here https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shades_of_green#Green_in_biological_nature there are loads! Can you make up some new names yourself?