Leaf Rubbings

What is it?

A leaf rubbing is a fun activity that works on fine motor skills, observation of patterns in the leaf and helps get out energy for students sitting all day.





- Supplies
- Paper, standard stock or thinner, any color
- Crayons
- Leaves these can be collected just before you do your rubbing earlier. You can collect leaves through out the year to be used in the winter, just press them between the pages of a book.
- Optional: Magnifying glass
- Optional: watercolor paints, brushes
- Optional: Graph paper



Get started

Observe & Create

- Before you begin rubbing, look closely at your leaves, what do you see?
- Place your paper over your leaf.
- Rub with your crayon and watch the leaf appear under the paper.
- Experiment and use your creativity until you are hapy with the result.





Explore more

- Paint over your rubbing with watercolors.
- Rub your leaf onto graph paper and measure the leaf's height, width and area.
- Look at your leaf rubbing through a magnifying glass, what do you see?

Adapted from:Reynolds, Lloyd J., "Weathergrams," The Haiku Foundation Digital Library, accessed September 8, 2022, https://www.thehaikufoundation.org/omeka/items/show/1232.