

Bark and Leaf Rubbings

Get outside by exploring the trees in your backyard or at a local park. This activity highlights how the various species of trees have features that differ from one another.

What You'll Need:

crayon, thin paper, a clip board/magazine or something with a smooth surface, tree/leaves

Bark Rubbings

Step 1: Peel the paper from a large crayon

Step 2: Press a sheet of thin paper up against the bark of a tree.

Step 3: Gently rub the side of the crayon on the paper until the pattern of the bark shows. (might need a partner to hold the paper)



Leaf Rubbings

Step 1: Collect some interesting leaves but remember you will need leaves that are not dry or crumbly.

Step 2: If you picked more than one, arrange your leaves on a hard smooth surface.

Step 3: Cover the leaves with a thin sheet of paper

Step 4: Find a darker colored crayon. If needed remove the paper around the crayon.

Step 5: Using the side of the crayon gently rub it over the paper and leaves. You will see the outline and vein lines appear.



NOTE: Don't forget to label rubbings if you know what kind of tree it is

Questions:

Compare rubbings from different trees. Which bark/ leaf patterns make the nicest rubbings? Can you tell which rubbing came from which kind of tree?

Optional Extension of activity is to cut out rubbings and glue them into your nature journal.



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