

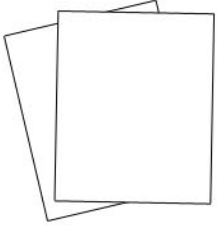
Create a Leaf or Bark Rubbing

Trees provide food and shelter for animals and humans. They're also a great way to make art! Go outside and collect some leaves. Get out your crayons, colored pencils or pens. Then place a leaf on a clipboard or table, put a piece of paper over it, and rub the crayon, pencil or pen across the paper.

DID YOU KNOW?

The largest tree in the U.S. is a sequoia tree known as the General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park in California. It stands 275 feet tall and has a diameter of over 36 feet at the base.

Things You'll Need:



PAPER

This can be regular white paper or colored paper



**CRAYONS, PENS
OR COLORED PENCILS**



LEAVES

Don't forget pine needles and other evergreens



HARD SURFACE

Like a clipboard (to take outside with you) or a table

You'll begin to see the form of the leaf. You can try different leaves and colors to make a real piece of art. You could also put a piece of paper on the side of a tree to make a rubbing of the bark.

Practice a leaf rubbing here first.



Oak Leaf

Listen to Nature

Nature can be very noisy, but in a different way than the sounds of humans. Birds and other animals use their calls to communicate with one another. If you've ever heard a squirrel scolding, it is telling you to get away. Cardinals have a sharp chirp when they are being territorial, but when they are trying to attract a mate they use a more melodious tune. Some animals cry out when danger approaches. Even though you mean them no harm, they will presume you are a danger to them because you are bigger than most of them.



You can have an interesting experience by just listening to nature. Go outside and find a wooded area. Sit quietly for 5 or 10 minutes and listen for the sounds of nature. You'll probably hear the wind in the trees even if you can't feel it, as well as birds, squirrels, frogs, and other animals. Tune out man-made sounds like traffic, and keep notes on what you hear. Try to identify what makes each sound, then compare your notes with a friend.

Keep track of the sounds of nature. Make sure to write down where you hear the sounds and the time of day.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

A black silhouette of two frogs. One frog is in the foreground, facing left, with its mouth open as if croaking. The second frog is behind it, also facing left.

People used to listen to frogs to predict the weather. Frogs croak when atmospheric pressure changes, which often indicates a change in the weather.

DID YOU KNOW?