



Leaf Rubbings

Goals

Students will discover the diversity of leaves in the garden through a creative activity.

Objectives

Students will create leaf rubbings as a creative representation of leaf shapes and colors.



Materials

- Paper (blank newsprint works best)
- Crayons

Time: 30 minutes

Introduction (10 min)

Ask students to look around the garden and notice the colors and different shades of color. Have students share their findings with the whole group. Then, explain to students that it is okay to break a few leaves off of plants, as long as the plant has a lot of leaves and as long as you do not hurt the plant when removing leaves. Explain that plants need leaves in order to get energy from the sun. Demonstrate pinching using your thumb and forefinger as a good way to remove a leaf. As a group, gather several different types of leaves from the garden (do not forget needles, they are leaves also). Pass them around and encourage students to use their five senses to investigate the leaves. Ask students to share their observations about similarities and differences. Be sure to point out the veins and let students know that they carry food and water throughout the leaf.

Activity Steps (15 min)

1. After making observations of the various leaves in the garden, ask students to choose 3-4 of their favorites.
2. Demonstrate the rubbing technique by putting a leaf under the paper and using a crayon to pick up its texture.
3. Have the students make rubbings of the leaves they collected and encourage them to paint/draw around their rubbings. Also encourage students to use colors that they observed in the garden.
4. Completed art can be taken home or posted in the garden or classroom.

Conclusion (5 min)

Have a gallery walk by displaying the leaf rubbings and allowing students to admire their classmates' creations.

Possible Extensions

- Students can decorate card stock with their leaf rubbings and make greeting cards.

- Have students collect leaves from trees in the area. Students can make leaf rubbings in the garden (be sure to label each rubbing with the location it was gathered from) and then return to the classroom and use a tree identification book to identify the trees in the area. Students could then make identification markers for the trees.

Notes

