

People around the world have been making artistic rubbings for centuries. The technique is very simple and the results are dramatic.

Here's how to make your own.

Place a piece of blank paper securely over a surface that has texture such as the grain on a piece of wood or woven fabric. Rub over the paper with a crayon, pencil, charcoal, or pastels to bring out interesting patterns. Rubbings can be made of all sorts of surfaces and objects, for example, coins, lace, feathers, a wicker basket to name a few. Leaf rubbings are popular and a good way to learn more about trees.

## Leaf Wax Rubbings

### Supplies:

- \* Blank paper
- \* Wax crayons with the paper removed. Jumbo Crayons are easy to use for little children.
- \* A smooth work surface (a clipboard works outdoors)

### Procedure:

- ⇒ Collect a few freshly fallen leaves that are still soft and will lay flat.
- ⇒ Place the leaf or leaves flat on your work surface in a pattern you like. Some leaves will have a more raised texture if you place them vein side up.
- ⇒ Lay your blank paper over top of the leaves, making sure the leaves underneath don't move around.
- ⇒ Using any colour you like, turn the crayon on its side and gently rub over the paper. The leaves' shapes will magically appear on the paper.



Wax-resist with watercolour paint

### More ideas:

- Experiment with different colours and leaf arrangements to create one-of-a-kind masterpieces.
- Use larger sheets of paper and make your own wrapping paper.
- Create pretty note cards.
- Use wooden alphabet building blocks to add letters and numbers to your pieces.
- Combine manmade textures with nature's textures and patterns.



Overlap one leaf at a time

**Tip:** Take this activity to your local cemetery. These green spaces often have a wide variety of trees with different leaves or needles. They also have interesting patterns and designs on the markers. Remember to be respectful of the cemetery's rules while visiting.

