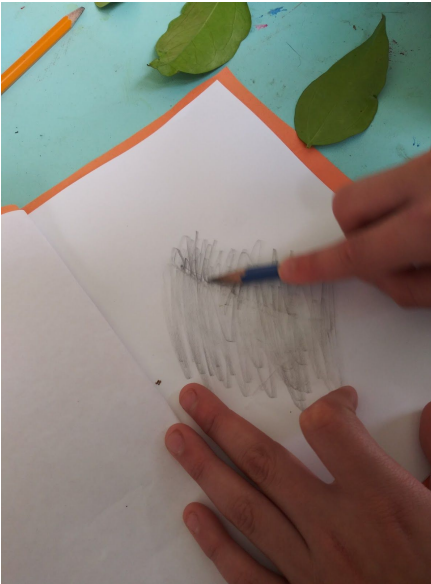


Nature Walk and Leaf Rubbings

For Grades K-5



and shapes (optional)

In this lesson children will be learning about plant varieties, and may even consider becoming a future botanist!

Materials needed:

- Two pages of copy paper (or any paper not too thick). Fold both pieces in half to make a book.
- One piece of construction paper, folded in half for the cover of the book. (Make one book for each child.)
- Stapler, pencils, crayons or markers, baggies (for collecting leaves in)
- Leaves from outside your house
- Magnifying glass to closely observe the leaf patterns

What the adult leading the lesson can say:

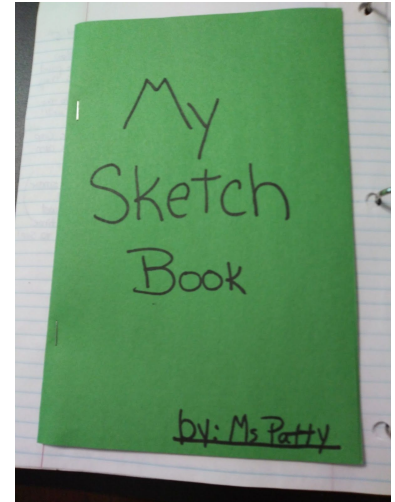
“Today we are learning that all plants have a name just like you and me. Let’s go outside on a nature walk and collect leaves in our baggies to bring back and study and log in our nature books. We will be working like a botanist. A botanist goes to college to study plants to make them stronger and healthier to feed us and the world.” (For more information about botanists, go to Wonderopolis.org [Wonder of the day #2186](#) [What does a botanist do?.](#))

Directions:

Give each child a baggie to collect leaves in. Give instructions to stay behind you and not rush ahead, to wait to pick a leaf until you tell them the name of the plant (if you know it). If not, just classify the leaves by type: palm, pine, flowering shrub, flowering tree, oak tree, ground cover, etc. As you are walking with the child/ren stop and tell them what you know about each plant you see and once you tell them, let them go ahead and collect a leaf. Continue telling about and collecting leaves until you have about 5-8 varieties. Then head back inside to start working on the plant books/sketchbooks.

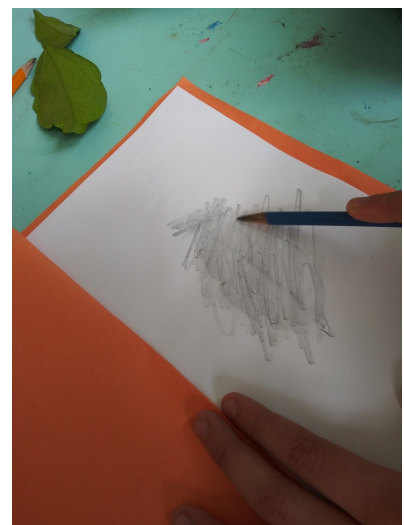
Give each child one of the sketchbooks you made, a pencil, crayons or markers.

Have each child write the title on the cover of their book with crayon or marker. It might be "My Plant Book," "My Sketch Book," or "My Nature Book."



Take the leaves out of the baggies. Open the book, and place one leaf in between the first and second page. Take a crayon or pencil and using the side of the crayon or pencil led (not the tip) rub lightly on the paper where the leaf is under it.

An imprint of the leaf will appear.





Then label the leaf with its name. Repeat for all the leaves you collected, using different pages if you wish.

Children can also trace to darken the detail lines of the leaf rubbing and add color if they wish.



Patty Padgett is a Teaching Artist with Center for Creative Education in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Submit a photo of your finished work to Center for Creative Education via email, info@cceflorida.org, with your first name, age, and city or town in which you live, for a chance to have your work showcased on our website or social media pages!

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