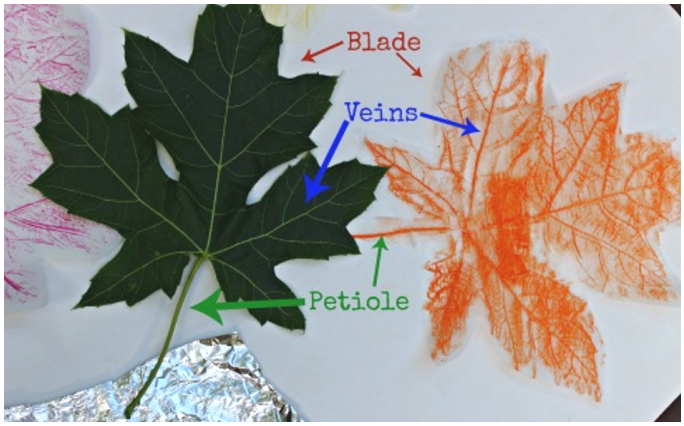
Leaf Rubbing

In this lesson, children will explore the different textures found in a natural environment by examining patterns found within a simple leaf or piece of bark.

BACKGROUND:

Trees, like all living things, have important features that keep them alive. Leaves help carry food and water to the tree. Leaves contain micropores which absorb carbon dioxide and water and filter oxygen and water from the tree, by way of transpiration. Leaves also contain chlorophyll, which has a green pigment. Chlorophyll is the substance that absorbs sunlight to use in photosynthesis (the process of turning carbon dioxide and water into food for the tree). Leaves are a necessary part of the tree.



MATERIALS:

- A variety of different leaves and bark collected from a nature walk
- A paper bag
- Pencils or crayons

PROCEDURE:

- Collect leaves or pieces of bark from a tree or plant in your home or neighborhood
- Examine the leaf or piece of bark. Point out the veining, size, and shape of a leaf.
- Lay the leaf or bark flat in the bag and close
- With a pencil or crayon, have your child rub the color on the outside of the bag over the leaf on the inside.They should see the leaf image appear on the bag. They can use different colors and different leaves to decorate their bag. A leaf print is much more than just a pretty picture; it's also a peek into the science of trees.
- Discuss and label the parts of the leaf: he broad flat part of the leaf is called its blade. The lines that run through the blade are the leaf's veins. Veins carry food and water to the tree. The stalk of the leaf is called a petiole.
- Have your child examine the imprint on the bags and compare them with the leaves they used .How are they different?How are they the same?

CONCLUSION:

Encourage your child to think about the role of leaves in tree health and survival. Go outside to collect more leaves, repeating the leaf rubbing and noting the [arts of the leaf and individual importance.

Learn more at:

Conservation Connection IERCD.org

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