

Nature Sketchbook



Make the most of those falling leaves and create an autumn nature sketchbook using two different printmaking techniques. This is a simple project that uses household items, leaves and tempera paint.

Ages 8 and up.

Supplies:

- Brown grocery bags* or brown paper, cut into 4" x 4" pieces
- Fresh leaves
- Black tempera paint
- Sponge
- Foam plates
- Black construction paper, 9" x 9"
- Stiff cardboard, 9" x 9"
- 5 pieces of white paper, 8" x 8"
- Black marker
- Old newspapers

* For a "leathery" look, soak the paper, squeeze dry, and then iron it flat before starting.

Directions:

1. Create four leaf prints - 2 of each made in the following manners:

- Lay a leaf on a piece of brown paper. (*You may wish to use some small pieces of clay or kneaded eraser to hold it there from underneath.*)
- Sponge paint with black paint over everything, creating a relief print of the leaf.
- Draw veins with a black marker.



- Sponge black paint onto the underside of one or more leaves.
- Carefully press the painted side onto a clean piece of brown paper.
- Cover with a piece of newspaper and rub to make a print.



2. Allow them to dry completely. (Using a blow dryer can speed this up!)
3. Glue them onto the black paper as shown:



4. Stack the white paper on top of the cardboard and cover with the leaf print page. Staple it all together to make a notebook.