



STAY CONNECTED.

STAY CURIOUS.

Bark and Leaf Rubbings

The forest is filled with different textures—from the rough bark of a tree to the frilly leaves of a fern. In this activity little ones can explore the textures of plants and make rubbings of the different types.

You'll need:

- Paper
- Crayons
- Trees, leaves, or other plants
- Optional: tape

What to do (tree bark):

1. Head outside with paper, tape, and a few crayons.
2. Tape a piece of paper to a tree, or have an adult hold it in place.
3. Carefully rub the paper with the crayon. You'll get the best results if you rub with the crayon on its side, as shown.
4. Encourage little ones to do rubbings of different trees to compare them. Are some trees rougher than others? Why does the tree have bark? (For protection!)

What to do (leaves):

1. Pick one leaf and lay it vein-side up on a flat surface like a table.
2. Cover the leaf with a piece of paper.
3. Gently rub a crayon sideways back and forth across the paper.
4. Encourage little ones to do rubbings of different leaves to compare them. Which leaf has the most veins? Can you count the number of points on each leaf?

