



A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN NATURE ART, IN THREE STAGES with Sue van Copenhagen

JOURNEY STAGE 1

LEAF RUBBINGS: lay a sheet of paper down, place a leaf on top, lay a sheet of quite thin paper over the leaf, and gently rub over the leaf with wax crayon (best if the crayon is on its side, rather than point down). Observe the outline and veins of the leaf appearing. Compare one leaf with another, to see the shape of the leaf, whether the edge is smooth or toothed, how the vein pattern looks, etc.

Optional: cut out the leaves, and build up a collage picture of different colour leaves glued onto paper.

WAX RESIST: Lay a leaf on a sheet of paper and draw around it with wax crayon. Choose another leaf and do the same with a different colour crayon. Build up a picture with several leaves in different colours, allowing them to overlap each other. Look at the veins and try to draw them in as they appear on the leaf. Mix up some liquid paint, and brush it over the picture, noticing how the wax repels the paint.

Optional: repeat the exercise using only white crayon or a white candle (more challenging) and possibly more than one colour of paint.

JOURNEY STAGE 2

SPRAY TECHNIQUE: On a sheet of paper, lay a variety of different leaves of as many different shapes as possible. Mix up some liquid paint in a few small containers (saucers or shallow aluminium trays such as for cat food are ideal), dip a toothbrush in the paint, and drawing the

thumb across the toothbrush spray paint over the leaves. Slowly repeat until the paper is covered, without bumping the leaves in the process. When the paint is dry, carefully lift the leaves to reveal the masked shapes left by the leaves.

JOURNEY STAGE 3

SPONGE TECHNIQUE: On a sheet of paper, lay a variety of different leaves of as many different shapes as possible. Mix up some liquid paint in a few small containers (saucers or shallow aluminium trays such as for cat food are ideal). Using a sponge with a holey texture (pieces of cellulose cleaning sponge work well), dab paint over the leaves, being careful not to lift them in the process. Allowing wet paint colours to mingle adds interest. Allow the paint to dry before carefully lifting the leaves to reveal the masked shapes created.

LEAF PRINTING: pour different colours of acrylic paint into small containers (a large range of colours is not necessary). Lay a leaf face down in a shallow tray or on a plate. Using a brush, or even a sponge, paint the back of the leaf with fairly thick paint. Start with one colour only, then try with more than one colour brushed onto the leaf. Carefully drop it paint side down onto the paper, without smearing, then drop a sheet of kitchen paper over and carefully press down. Gently lift off the kitchen paper and then the leaf, to reveal the print. Build up a design of as many different shapes as possible, in a variety of colours.



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