

# EARTH BINGO

## Leaf Printing

Leaf printing is a fun and easy craft. The bonus is that you get two activities in one since you will need to go on a nature hike to collect a variety of leaves.

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

### Materials Needed:

- Fresh tree leaves of your choosing
- Newspaper to protect your work surface
- Paper towels
- Paint (Watercolor, Tempera or Acrylic paints all work well)
- Paintbrushes, paper plate or palette for mixing paints
- Paper (Any paper like card stock, watercolor paper, or office copy paper)
- Optional items: Small crafting paint roller and rolling pin, can, or anything else that's cylindrical and smooth.

### Directions:

1. Choose leaves that are still fresh and pliable. Dry leaves will not work as they tend to crumble when painted or pressed. Make sure your leaves are dry before you begin.
2. Lay down newspaper to protect your work surface.
3. Select a piece of paper for your leaf print.  
**Helpful Hint:** If you are using a thick, heavy paper like card stock, for best results, use a spray bottle and mist your paper with water. Allow it to absorb while you are painting your leaf (see next step). Note: This step is not necessary for thinner papers like copy paper.
4. Using your brushes and/or optional craft paint roller, paint the surface of the leaf. This is best done by placing the leaf on a cloth or paper towel. Paint the entire surface.  
**Helpful Hints:** We recommend painting the underside of the leaf as the contour of the veins will give your print more visual interest. Also, if you like, you can use more than one color to paint your leaf.
5. Gently flip the leaf painted side down onto your paper. Carefully but firmly press the leaf to ensure that the entire leaf comes in contact with the paper.  
**Helpful Hint:** This is where your optional rolling pin or can might come in handy. For this method of pressing, cover your leaf with a paper towel or piece of scrap paper and use your rolling pin or can applying pressure as you roll over the leaf pressing it on the paper. Some people think this technique works better than using your fingers to make your print more even with greater details.
6. Once you've completed your pressing (with whichever method you choose to try), carefully lift the pressed leaf from your paper.
7. Admire your beautiful leaf print!
8. Now that you know the steps to do the print, you may decide you just want a single leaf on your paper, or maybe you would like to use the same leaf again in a different color. (You can usually use a leaf about five times.) Maybe you will want to add several leaves in different colors to create a design or pattern. There is no right or wrong in creating art. Art is play, so have a good time and create your own masterpiece!

## Pictorial Steps:



Choose leaves that are still fresh and pliable



Lay down newspaper to protect your work surface.



Select a piece of paper for your leaf print.



Using your brushes and/or optional craft paint roller, paint the surface of the leaf



Gently flip the leaf painted side down onto your paper. Carefully but firmly press the leaf to the paper surface



Carefully lift the pressed leaf from your paper

## Examples of Finished Prints



Leaves painted  
multiple colors

Collage/Pattern



Single leaf painted  
multiple colors

Variety of leaves

