



LESSON 18 LEVEL A PRINTMAKING

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

making relief prints with leaves;
blending colors

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

newsprint, butcher or drawing paper about 23 x 30.5 cm (9" x 12"); newspapers; red, yellow and brown tempera paints; 1.2 or 1.5 cm. (1/2" or 3/4") flat tempera brushes, one for each color; several paper plates or pie tins; scissors; paste; (optional) colored construction paper.

NOTE TO PARENTS: Work at a low, newspaper covered table. Shake the tempera paint well until it is the consistency of cream. Pour 60 ml. (1/4 cup) of each color into separate shallow containers. The child should wear a smock or old clothes. Keep a sponge or towel handy for cleaning painty fingers. Place a stack of quarter sheets of newspaper on the table next to the a supply of the paper to be printed on. Have an assortment of fresh, rather large leaves on which the child will paint in order to make the prints.

edge of the container to remove extra paint. Hold the leaf down with one finger while you stroke the paint all the way across it.

TEMPERA LEAF PRINTS



Photograph by Kay Alexander

GETTING STARTED: In the fall, many leaves turn from green to shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown. But almost all year around there are green leaves that will serve for tempera leaf printing in your chosen colors. Look at all the different shapes and sizes of leaves. Decide which ones you want to print.

1. Put a sheet of newspaper in front of you. Lay a leaf on it. Be sure the vein side (back side) is up.
2. Put a sheet of printing paper (newsprint or drawing paper) near you.
3. Dip your brush in one of the paint colors. Pull the brush gently over the



4. Don't scrub the leaf. Dip and stroke over and over until the whole back of the leaf is painted, even the stem.
5. Lay the brush down. Pick up the leaf and turn it over. Place it, paint side down, on the printing paper.
6. Wipe your fingers. Put a little sheet of newspaper on top of the leaf.
7. Press down with your flat hand all over your "leaf sandwich" but don't slide your hands or the leaf might slip and smear.
8. Carefully remove the newspaper. Then lift the leaf, pulling straight up. There's your leaf print!



Student Demonstration

9. Put the print somewhere else to dry, but not where someone could step on it. Then make another print.
10. This time, paint one part of the leaf with one color and the rest with another color. (Notice what happens when the two colors meet.)
11. Do the steps again: paint; put leaf on paper; clean fingers; cover leaf with newspaper; press firmly all over; and uncover.
12. You may want to make several leaf prints to cut out later. Then you can paste them onto a big piece of paper to decorate your room. Or, you could tape them to a window or the refrigerator.

CLEAN UP: Carefully put unused paint back into their bottles. (If you got a little of another color into the paint cup, do NOT pour it back in the bottle. You'll have to save it in a small screw-top jar or throw it away.) Wash the brushes with soapy water and rinse them well. Fold up the painty newspapers so the paint side is inside. Throw newspapers away. Sponge up any spills or smudges. Wash your hands. (Yes, again!)

TALK ABOUT IT: Which shapes and colors of your leaf prints do you like best? What happened when two colors mixed? Can you see the lines of the leaf's veins in each print? What ideas do you have for using your leaf prints?

MORE IDEAS:

1. Print more leaves with imaginative, wild colors of paint.
2. Find the seed of a tree (an acorn from an oak; a pine nut from a pine cone etc.). Plant the seed. Mark the spot with a stick. In the Spring, see if a new tree sprouts.

CONNECTIONS: Learn the names of the trees and bushes that the leaves came from. Press some fresh leaves between paper towels or newspaper under a heavy book until they are dry. Then tape them into your scrap book and print their names.

