

Supplies Needed:

- Paper
- Crayons
- Pencils/Pens
- Various leaf samples
- Parts of a leaf diagram
- Scissors (optional)
- Clear contact paper (optional)

Instructions:

Leaf rubbings are a fun and exciting way to combine an outdoor educational experience with art. Leaf rubbings are made when a leaf is placed on a hard surface and covered with a piece of paper. A wax crayon is rubbed on top of the piece of paper, creating an imprint of the leaf. This acts as a springboard to teach the parts of a leaf to youth. The best part? Educators do not need to know the specific name of the tree – simply the parts of a leaf!



While some leaves may be needles (pine trees) or scales (cedar trees), it is recommended to use common, board leaves for this activity. After verbally reviewing the different parts of a leaf, youth can use pencils/pens to label the parts on their leaf rubbing(s).

Parts of a Leaf:

- **Blade:** consists of the apex, margin, veins, midrib, and base. It is the large, flat part of the leaf where photosynthesis occurs.
- **Apex:** tip of the leaf
- **Margin:** edge of the leaf
- **Veins:** carry food/water throughout leaf; act as a structure support
- **Midrib:** thick, large single vein along the midline of the leaf
- **Base:** bottom of the leaf
- **Petiole:** the stalk that joins a leaf to the stem; leafstalk
- **Stipule:** the small, leaf-like appendage to a leaf, usually found in pairs at the base of the petiole

Note: many times, the stipule is not part of the leaf sample, so educators may choose to omit this.

Another variation of this activity to outline the leaf rubbing and cut it out. Cover the front and back of the rubbing with contact paper; it can be used as a bookmark!

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Parts of a Leaf

