



Tree - Make

Rubbings & Textures:

Resources; paper, wax crayons

When outside with the children, invite them to make **bark** and **leaf rubbings**. Using the paper and some wax crayons, ask the children to **choose a tree** and look for **interesting patterns** on its **surface/bark**. To make the rubbing, they should hold the piece of paper against the bark with one hand so it is flat against the bark. Then using their free hand, **rub the long side of the crayon against the paper**. They should see the bark pattern gradually appear on the paper. **Compare** the rubbings of different trees - are they the same? They could try the same thing with **leaves**.

The children could also try **layering different colours** on top of each other or create a **patchwork** effect by taking rubbings of lots of **different textures** next to each other on the same piece of paper.

A POETREE:

Resources: brown parcel/lining paper, pencils, pens, scissors, paint, cardboard, cardboard tubes/loo rolls, glue

This activity shows you how to make a class **poetree** using the children's words, text and poetry to make a whole tree. Using Michael's activity from the Words page, invite each of the children to create their own **tree poem**. If you want to, you could divide the children into 4 and ask each group to focus on a different part of the tree - **roots, trunk, branches, leaves**.

For the roots, trunk and branches, the children could write their poems on **torn pieces of card and brown paper** to make them look like **bark**. Be creative with the **leaves**. To create a **lush canopy** the children could:

- Use different **shades of green hand-prints** which they write on, cut out and stick on
- Write on **green paper** and cut into **leaf shapes** of particular trees and stick on
- Paint **cardboard tubes** (or loo roll tubes) green then squash them flat. Then, using scissors, snip into rings so that they produce thin leaf-shapes before sticking onto the tree.
- Could even stick some **real leaves** on too.

If you decided to divide the class into the four parts of the tree, Start to **fill the tree from the bottom** with the roots poems, then the trunk poems, then the branch poems and finally the leaf poems. You might want to **draw the outline of a tree** on a big piece of paper first for the children to fill in. If you didn't divide into 4 groups, the children can decide whether to make leaves or bark or both.

Natural Object Art:

Resources: material or paper/card for design background, found natural objects

This activity uses the **natural items** you have collected as a class or the children have brought into school from walks in the park, a woodland space, a garden or the school grounds.

Encourage them to collect natural items such as **leaves, twigs, pebbles, feathers, shells, cones, bark, moss, lichen, conkers, seed pods** or anything else that you find and like the look of. Make sure the children only take what they need and don't damage any trees.

Invite the children to use the class or their own **collection** of found natural objects to create a piece of **artwork**. They could make:

- A **Mandala** – A circular symbol made up of lots of different rings of pattern. Try using different coloured or textured items to produce the different layers of the mandala
- A **Scenescape** – create a tree scene or forest. Lay a plain piece of material, card or paper on a flat surface (or the floor) to create a backdrop on which you can create your own picture.
- A **Word** or **Words** - spell a 'tree' inspired word with the items they found. You could take photos of these and with the children arrange them into a short poem.

Twig Mobiles:

Resources: twigs, string/twine/thread, scissors, lightweight natural items (cones, feathers, leaves)

This activity will show you how to make a **hanging mobile** using small branches and lightweight found natural objects. It will also use the natural items that the class collected. Make sure everyone has **2 or 3 medium twigs** and **4 or 6 smaller twigs**. To make their mobile the children should:

1. **Tie** the medium twigs at their centre with one long piece of string. Keep one end of the string long and make a loop at the top – this is what will be used to hang the mobile up.
2. Using smaller pieces of string, **tie the smaller twigs onto the ends of the medium ones**. These also need to be tied at the middle to keep the mobile balanced.
3. Now **tie on the found natural objects onto their mobile** – try using pairs of items that have a similar weight to decorate the ends of the twigs. Think about using interesting leaves, pine cones or feathers as decoration. Heavier items should be tied towards the middle of the twigs. Remember you need to keep each twig balanced. Hang this up from somewhere high.

Another approach is to find **one long branch** and tie a long piece of string to both ends to hang it. Then tie on **different found objects** at **various heights** (with different lengths of string) along the length of the branch.