



Ages 4-adult!

Leaf Rubbing Patterns

Starter activity (Optional):

Waltham Forest was home to William Morris, famous for his repeating nature patterns. (Get some inspiration here: <https://www.wmgallery.org.uk/>)

Main activity:

1. Protect your workspace with a tray or some scrap paper.
2. Collect leaves from your outdoor space, making sure they are safe (no prickles or irritating sap etc.).
3. Lay out your leaf on some scrap paper, with the leaf veins (bumpy side) facing upwards.
4. While holding the paper still, rub a crayon sideways over the leaf (you'll need to press hard).
5. Reposition your leaf, put the paper back in the same place and do another leaf rubbing.
6. Repeat until you have a pattern!



(Step 3)



(Step 4)



(Step 5)



(Step 6)

Bonus Activity:

Try some more complicated patterns.

Lay out some different leaves, covering about half your paper. Think about turning leaves round to fill in the gaps as much as possible. Reposition just your top sheet of paper (not the leaves) and take another rubbing.

