



Rainforest Habitat

RAINFOREST RESEARCH!

NATURE PLAY ACTIVITY



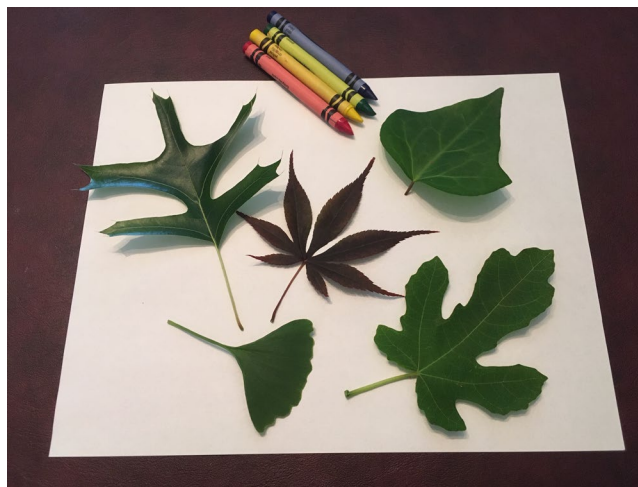
Extended Learning Partnership

Rainforest Research: Nature Play Activity

Did you know scientists are still discovering brand new species of plants in the rainforest today? In this activity, you get to practice identifying and documenting different plant species just like scientists do in the rainforest! When they find a new species, one way they can record and study their new discovery is by making a rubbing of the leaves or bark. Let's create our own!

Materials:

- Leaves gathered from around your home
- Trees around your home with bark that you can access
- A few blank sheets of paper
- Crayons, colored pencils, or chalk



Rainforest Research: Nature Play Activity

Instructions:

Leaf rubbings

1. Head outside and gather leaves that you can find around your home. Look for leaves that are all different sizes and shapes, and ones that have big veins that you can clearly see and feel.
2. Once you have collected your leaves, flip the leaves over on a flat surface so that the underside of the leaf (the side with all the leaf veins) is face up.



Regular side up

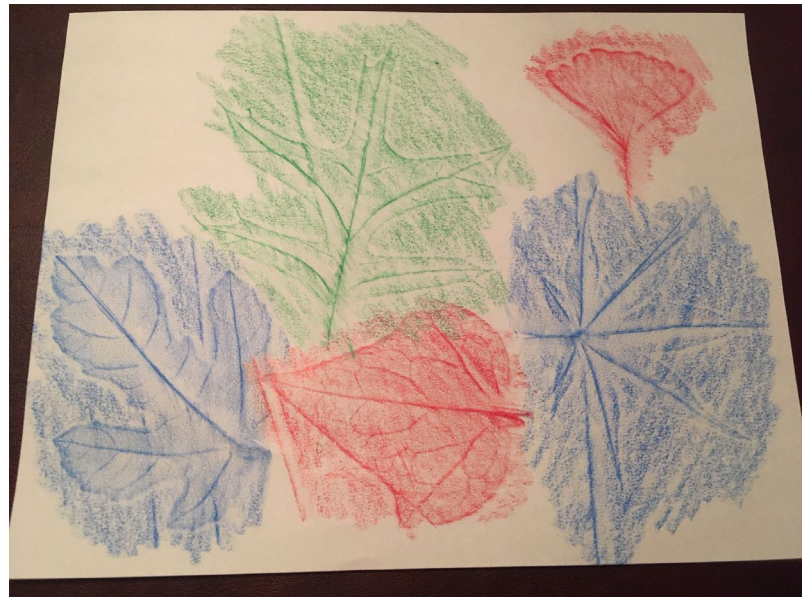


Flipped over - Vein side up



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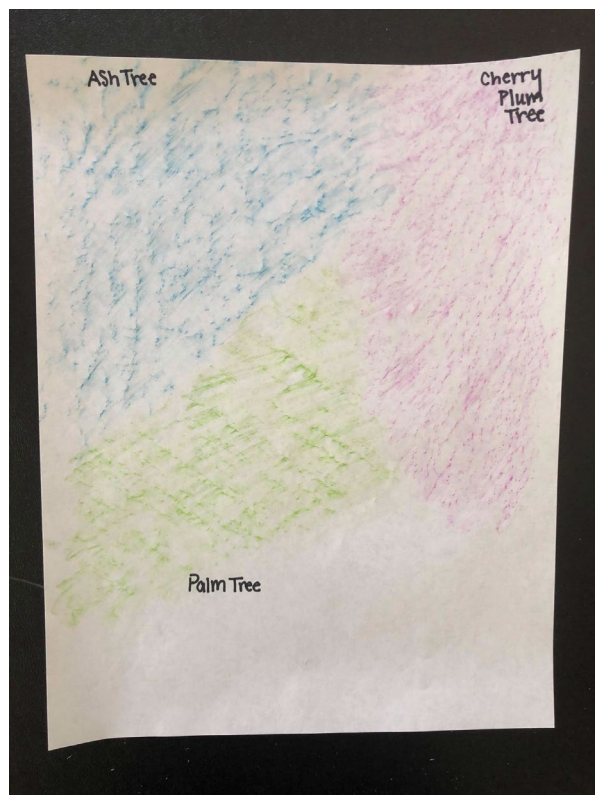
3. Place a blank sheet of paper over your leaves. Using the side of a crayon (or colored pencil or chalk) lightly color over the leaves and watch as the shape of the leaves is revealed!



Rainforest Research: Nature Play Activity

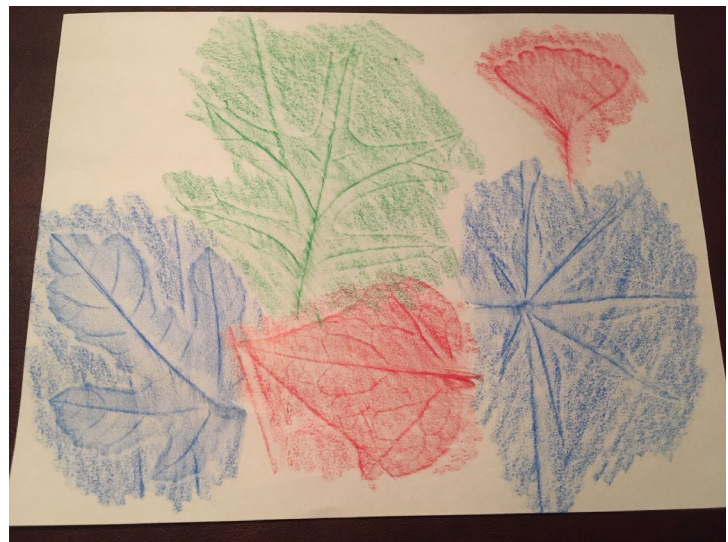
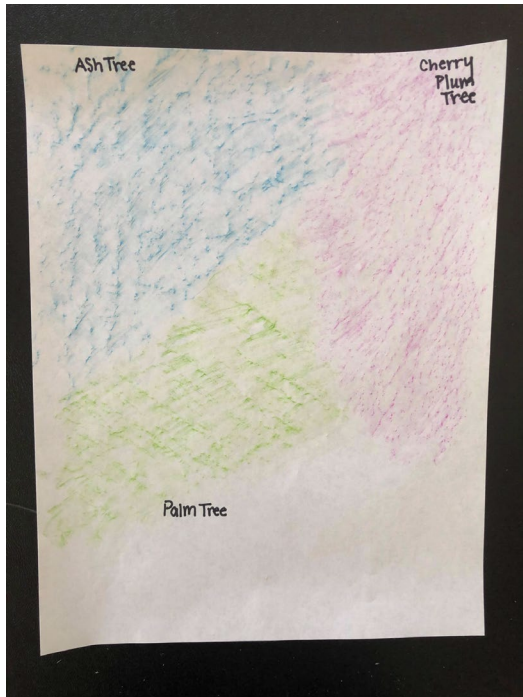
Bark Rubbings

1. Take a blank sheet of paper and your crayons outside and look for trees!
2. When you find a tree, hold your piece of paper against the bark. Using the side of your crayon to lightly color over the bark. Watch as the bark pattern is revealed on your paper!
3. Try this out on as many different trees as you can find.



Rainforest Research: Nature Play Activity

As you are collecting leaves and creating your rubbings, how many different types of plants did you find around your home? Do you think you could find more types, or fewer in a rainforest?



Once you have created your leaf and bark rubbings, take a look at your masterpiece. Can you notice any differences between the leaves or bark patterns? What do your rubbings have in common? If you were the first person to discover these plants, how would you describe them? What would you name them?

