



Art Project Plan

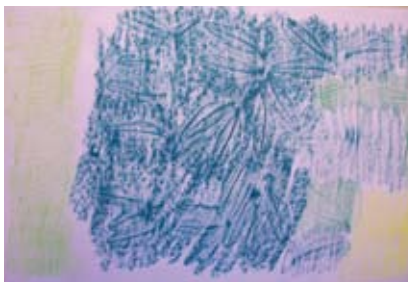
The Art of Bark



Grades: K-4 • Time: Two lessons, 45 minutes each

Project:

1. Explain the art activity to the group. They will create a botanical piece of art featuring a tree from the school grounds – bark rubbing, leaf rubbing, leaf print, and seed or flower drawing.
2. Take your group outside, with white paper and oil pastels, and scout out trees to feature in their artwork.
3. After children have picked trees to feature, instruct them to hold their paper against the bark of the tree and rub a brown (or other color) oil pastel across the paper, until they have a “rubbing”.
4. Clip enough healthy leaves (with stems and a little bit of branch), seeds, and flowers from each non-poisonous designated tree for the kids to use for leaf printing and as references when illustrating.
5. Instruct children to place a leaf underneath their white paper, and rub a green (or other color) oil pastel across paper, until they have a leaf rubbing. Cut out the individual leaves.
6. Pour green (and other colors, if you like) tempera paint into bowls or palettes for the children.
7. Next, ask group to lightly coat the back of a leaf with tempera paint and then press the painted side down onto a piece of paper for a few seconds. When they lift the leaf, they should have a leaf printing. Cut out the individual leaves.



Materials:

- KidsArt Fairs paper canvases
- White or light tan art-quality paper
- Oil pastels (extra browns for tree rubbings and variety of colors for other steps)
- Clippers (for instructor ONLY)
- non-toxic Tempera paints (extra greens for leaf prints and variety of colors for other steps)
- Paintbrushes
- Bowls or palettes
- Pencils
- non-toxic white craft glue, or glue dots
- Tree identification guidebook (optional)

Objective:

Use different media to create an impression of nature.



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Project continued:

8. For the final step, have students use oil pastels or paint to create a stem with branches.
9. Mount each leaf, stem, branch, or other tree art elements to the paper canvas with glue.
10. Children may write the name of the tree and date on the paper canvas, underneath the art. (It's also fun to label each part of the tree.)
11. When complete, have each artist sign their work in the lower right-hand corner. Use the Signature Template as a guide to positing the signature where it will be visible when framed.
12. Allow enough time for children to share their art and how they created it with each other.



*Teacher-Prepared Sample
Artwork in KidsArt Fairs
Gallery-Style Frame*

*For this example, the
background is the bark
rubbing; leaves are cut from
leaf rubbings and paint
impressions; branch is
painted with tempera paint.*