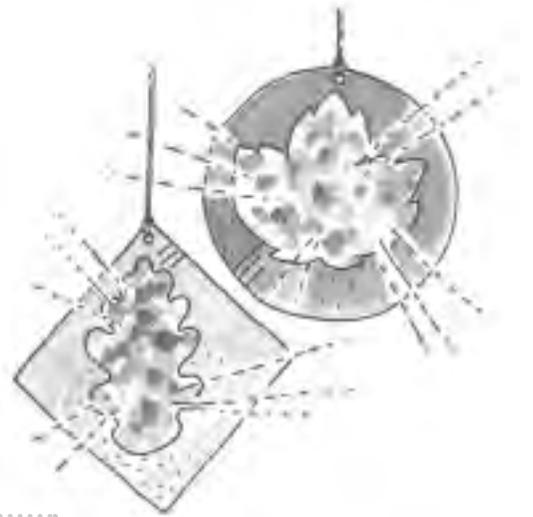


Festive Fall Sun Catcher

Let children bring the colors of fall indoors with these easy and decorative sun catchers.



MATERIALS

- ⊙ leaf patterns, page 32
- ⊙ black or dark brown construction paper cut into 5-inch squares, triangles, or circles
- ⊙ light-colored crayons or chalk
- ⊙ scissors
- ⊙ newspapers
- ⊙ waxed paper, cut into 4-inch squares, triangles, or circles
- ⊙ crayon shavings
- ⊙ paper cups
- ⊙ iron
- ⊙ glue



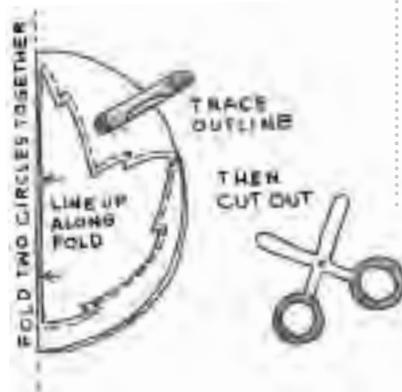
Tip

Use an old cheese grater to make crayon shavings easily. Place each color in a separate paper cup.

1 Ahead of time, make multiple copies of the leaf patterns on heavyweight paper (or glue them onto lightweight cardboard) and cut them out.

2 Let each child choose two construction paper shapes (squares, triangles, or circles) and a leaf pattern.

3 Tell children to line up their two paper shapes and fold them in half. Then demonstrate how to lay the leaf pattern on the folded edge of the papers and trace around it with crayon or chalk. Cut out the leaf shape through both sheets of paper. When unfolded, you will have two complete leaf cutouts.



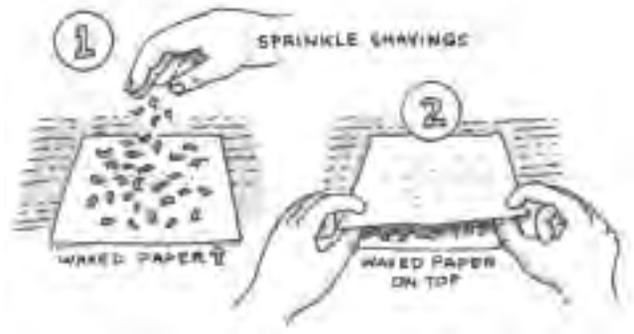
Literacy Link

This activity offers a great opportunity for a quick lesson in symmetry. Point out to children that each side of a leaf is the mirror image of the other. Have samples of real leaves on hand for children to examine with hand mirrors.

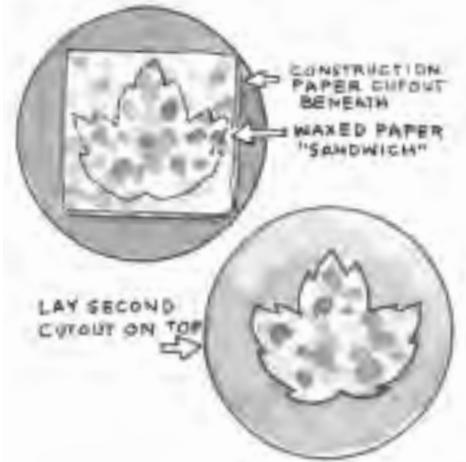


Why Do Leaves Change Color? by Betsy Maestro (HarperCollins, 1994). Detailed colored-pencil illustrations and simple text explain how leaves change color in the fall.

4 Set up a work center in a corner of your room near an electrical outlet. Place a thick layer of newspaper on your work surface. Have students take turns laying one piece of waxed paper on the newspaper and sprinkling it with crayon shavings. They will then place a second piece of waxed paper on top, lining up the edges.



5 Place several sheets of newspaper on top of the waxed paper, and then iron (adult only) one to two minutes, using a warm setting.



6 Center the waxed paper sandwich on one of the construction paper shapes and glue it in place. Then place the second paper shape over the first, line them up, and glue together. Tape or hang in a window.

Leaf Patterns

