

## National Core Arts Standards

### Art

#### PK.VA:Pr4

Identify reasons for saving and displaying objects, artifacts, and artwork.

#### K.VA:Cr1.1

Engage in exploration and imaginative play with various arts materials.

#### 2.VA:Cr2.3

Repurpose found objects to make a new artwork or design.

#### 3.VA:Cr3

Discuss, reflect, and add details to enhance an artwork's emerging meaning

### Mathematics

#### K.MD.2

Directly compare two objects with a measurable attribute in common, to see which object has "more of"/"less of" the attribute, and describe the difference.

### Science

#### K-LS1-1

Use observations (firsthand or from media) to describe patterns in the natural world in order to answer scientific questions.

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# ARTESTEEM<sup>SM</sup> ACTIVITY GUIDE

## Leaf Trace Mosaic





# AHC Principle: We Can Focus On The Whole Of Life Rather Than The Fragments

Grades: Pre K–3rd

## Overview

Have you taken time to explore what you have in common with trees or observed the beautiful shapes and changing colors of fall leaves? Are there things about yourself that, like the leaves, also fall away? What changes are you going through? How can trees inspire us to be firmly planted in the ground, strong, beautiful and stable through transition? In this lesson, you will learn how to make leaf prints and collage as you create a piece of art inspired and assisted by nature.

## Vocabulary

Stencil, Collage, Pattern, Mindfulness, Transformation, Motif

## Materials and Supplies

### From your Art Kit:

- 3 Sheets Watercolor Paper, Scissors, Glue stick, Watercolor paints

### From your home, neighborhood, or school:

Recycled paper, Cardboard (or used grocery bag)

## Step by Step Instructions

Go outside to observe the trees and the fall colors. Take three deep breaths slowly as you look around and gather 4–6 fallen leaves.

Come back inside. You will be working with paints and glue, so begin by protecting your work surface with newspaper or grocery bags. Place your leaves and supplies on your work surface. Take a moment to notice things about the leaves you have gathered. What colors are they? Do you see any patterns? A **pattern** can be any set of lines, shapes, or colors that repeat and serve as a guide for the overall design.

Compare two leaves and note any differences between them. Is one leaf wider than the other? Does one leaf have more veins (lines) than the other? How are the patterns different and similar?

### Step 1.

Place a sheet of watercolor paper flat on your work surface. Choose three fall colors and paint the entire sheet with them. Set aside and let dry. You will return to this fall color painting later.

While the painting is drying, create a paper stencil from your favorite leaf. What is a stencil? A **stencil** is a piece of material such as a sheet of paper, plastic, cardboard, or a leaf with a design or letters cut out and used as a guide to creating a pattern. Similarly, a **motif** is a subject in an artwork or pattern that is used throughout the artwork to create unity. In this project, our stencil leaves are the motifs.

### Step 2.

Place the leaf on a new sheet of paper. Trace around it with your pencil as you hold it stable with the other hand. After you have traced around all its edges, lift the leaf to see your tracing. Carefully cut it out with your scissors.

This is your stencil!

### Step 3 a–b.

Choose a new color. Place your stencil on a fresh sheet of watercolor paper. The stencil blocks the paint and will leave a white leaf-shaped print. Holding it in place with one hand, use the other hand to paint all around it (3a). Remove the stencil and let dry (3b). This is your stencil print.

### Step 4.

Cut up your fall color painting from step 1 into small pieces and set them aside.

### Step 5.

To create a **collage**, use your glue stick and paste one cut up piece at a time until you have covered the white leaf-shaped space on your stencil print.

## Clean Up

Tidy up and put away your supplies!

## Go Further

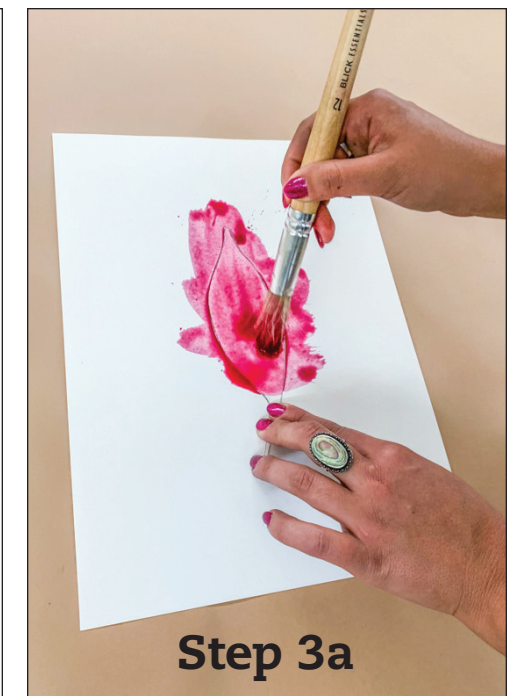
Take a fall walk among the trees and fallen leaves with a parent or guardian. Identify the colors you see. Listen to the sounds of the leaves in the breeze and underfoot. Notice the smells as you gently inhale and exhale.



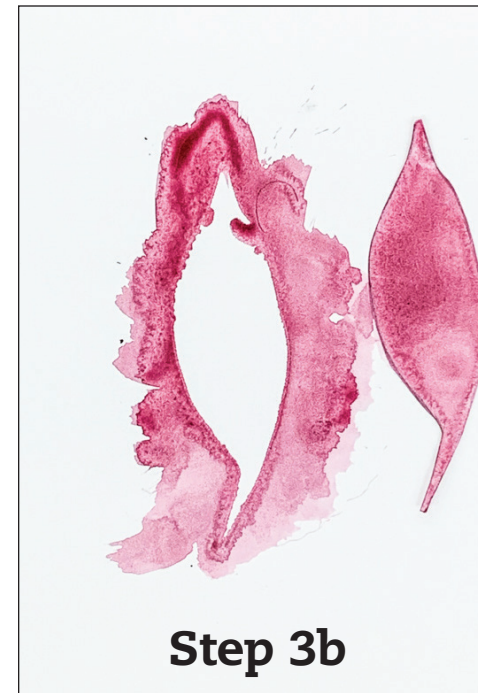
Step 1



Step 2



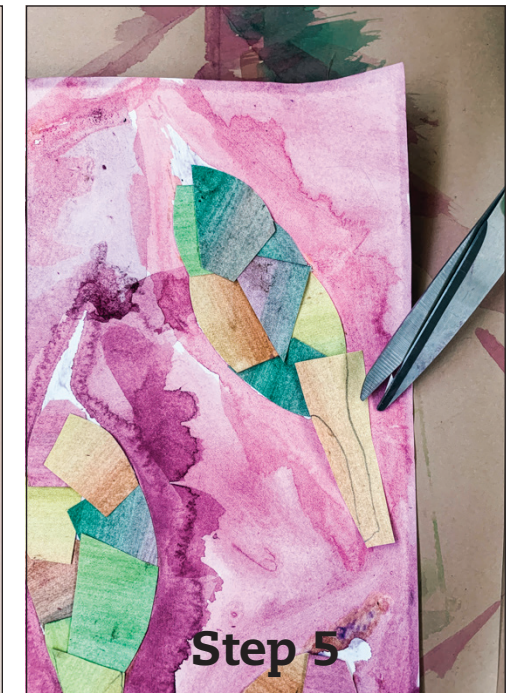
Step 3a



Step 3b



Step 4



Step 5