

kids craft *weekly*
CRAFT-ALONG



Leaves



FOUR GREAT LEAF CRAFTS
PLUS ACTIVITY SHEETS

Leaf Rubbings



There's nothing fancy about this old favourite but you'll be surprised at how satisfying it is. It's particularly enjoyable to demonstrate this craft for the very first time — your little one will think it's a sheer miracle! You can make a rubbing from any leaf, but those that have pronounced veins and interesting textures work best.

You will need

- * A selection of leaves
- * Paper
- * Crayons or pastels



- 1 Place a leaf under a sheet of paper and rub with a crayon. Younger kids will need an adult to hold the paper still.



- 2 Watch the impression of the leaf appear on the page.



- 3 If your little one is a fan of the scissors they might want to cut the leaves out afterwards.

Seasonal Window Hanging



This project encourages young kids to appreciate the different shapes and colours of leaves. Choose a selection of colourful leaves from your garden or local park, then do this activity the same day as older, crispy leaves may break up too readily.

You will need

- * A selection of leaves
- * Clear sticky contact
- * Scissors
- * A short piece of ribbon



1 Cut out a rectangular piece of contact and fold it in half. Then peel off the backing from one side of the contact and start to arrange leaves on it.



2 When the leaves are in place, put a piece of ribbon at the top of the picture to form a loop.



3 Peel off the remaining contact and carefully fold it back over the leaves and ribbon.



4 Trim off any wonky edges and hang it up against a window.

Bendy Straw Tree



Once they've got the idea of the bendy straw tree your little ones will want to make an entire plantation! As you can see below we've thought up two different ideas for leaves. Encourage your kids to come up with their own ideas — the possibilities are limitless!

You will need

- * *Curling ribbon or coloured card*
- * *Scissors*
- * *Bendy straws*
- * *Rubber bands*



1 First of all, make the leaves for your bendy straw tree. If you want to make long twisty leaves cut some lengths of green curly ribbon.



For smaller, stiff leaves cut out pieces of coloured card. You could even cut up a plastic plate.



2 To construct your tree, take some bendy straws, group them together and keep them in place with a rubber band. Bend down the tops to make branches. Then push some of the straws up and some of them down to change the levels of the branches.



3 When you've finished your tree you can give it some leaves. If you're using ribbon, carefully insert the ribbon into the ends of the straws.



If you've made small leaves, carefully fold each straw flat and cut a slit of about one centimetre into the top of the straw. Then you can slide your cardboard leaves into the straws to make leafy tree branches.



4 Both versions of the bendy straw tree were a big hit at our place!

Newspaper Leaf Picture



This tree picture is a fun and rewarding project for all age groups — even adults! Young kids will need guidance and help with the cutting, but otherwise it is well within the reach of a crafty three-year old.

You will need

- * Leaf
- * Newspaper
- * Watercolour paint
- * Marker
- * Brushes
- * White acrylic paint
- * Scissors



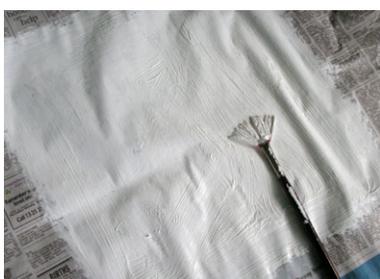
1 Get a nice big leaf and trace around it onto a sheet of newspaper.



2 Paint the leaf outline using watercolour paint.



3 When it's dry, cut out the leaf shape from the newspaper.



4 On a fresh piece of newspaper paint a large square with a thin layer of white paint.



5 Carefully stick the leaf onto the white paint and wait for it to dry.



6 I am stunned by how great these pictures look and the kids are proud as can be.

More leaf ideas

①

Make leaf prints using acrylic paint, leaves and paper.

②

Press your favourite leaves in a big book.

③

Explore your local greengrocers for leaves that smell and taste great.

④

Put some leaves through the laminator!
Then you could cut them out and make a mobile.

⑤

Make a garland for your head using a switch of willow or ivy.

⑥

In Autumn, rake up a huge pile of leaves and jump in!
In Spring, spend a lazy afternoon looking for a four leaf clover.

For more great craft ideas visit www.kidscraftweekly.com
and sign up for the free kid's craft email newsletter.

Activity sheet instructions

There are heaps of different ways to use the leaf outlines included in this craft-along pack. Here are three ideas to get you started!

① Paint some shimmery leaves

- A** Make a salt paint wash by mixing 1 tablespoon of fine salt with 1 tablespoon of water that has just boiled in the kettle. Add some drops of food colouring to make your preferred colour and stir well with a brush.
- B** Print out the leaf outlines in this craft-along pack and paint them with the salt wash.
- C** The salt gives the leaves a fabulous rough texture and, when they're dry, they'll glimmer in the light.
- D** If you wish you can cut out your leaves when they're dry and stick them on the wall or on the fridge.

② Make pretty leaf pictures using lentils

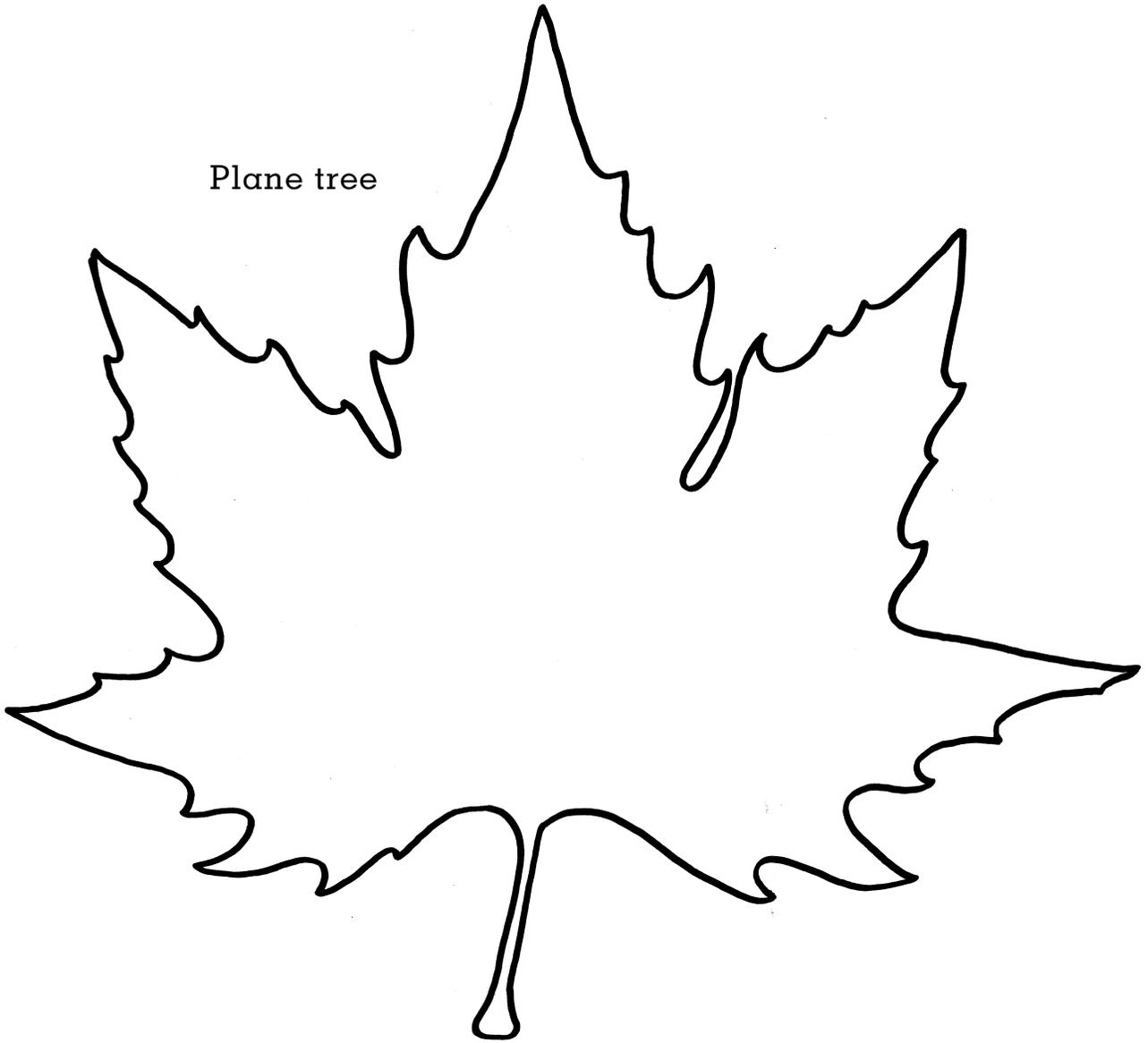
- A** Print out the leaf outlines onto thick paper stock.
- B** Paint a thick coat of white glue over the leaf outlines.
- C** Stick on green, orange and red lentils to add colour and texture to the leaves.

③ Stick on some cellophane for an Autumn collage

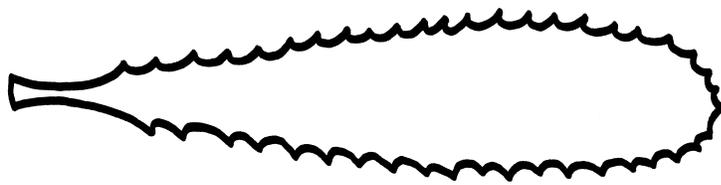
- A** Cut up small squares of cellophane in Autumnal colours such as orange, green, yellow and red.
- B** Print out the leaf outlines and paint the page using a white glue + water mix.
- C** Stick the cellophane squares randomly over the page, letting the colours overlap.
- D** Allow to dry, then cut out the leaf shapes, punch a hole in each of them and hang them from the roof or doorway.

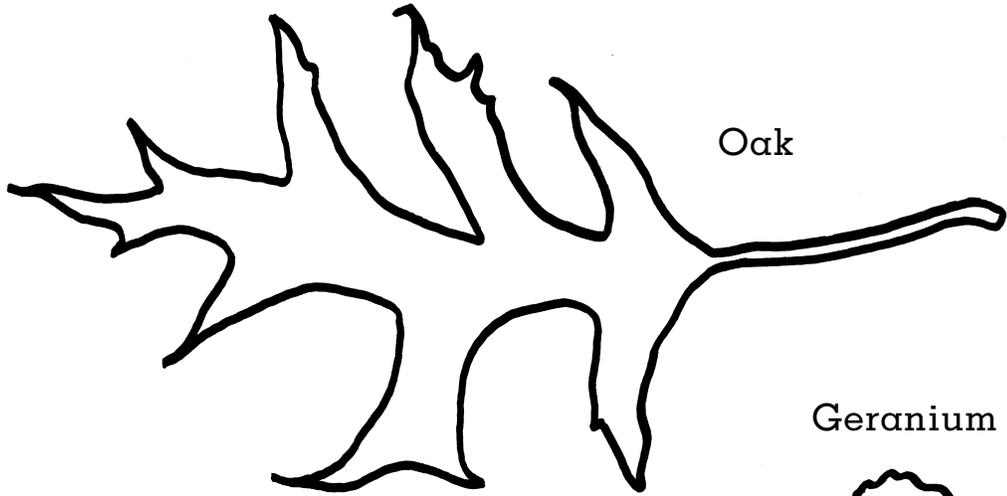
Don't forget to take a photo of your finished artwork and add it to the photo gallery at www.flickr.com/groups/kidscraftweekly.

Plane tree

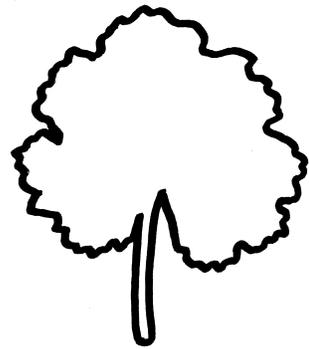


Banksia



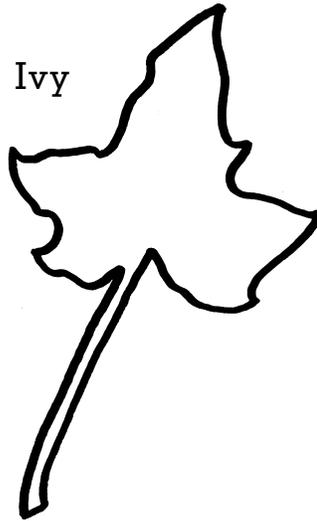
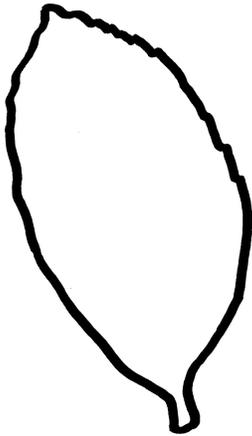


Oak

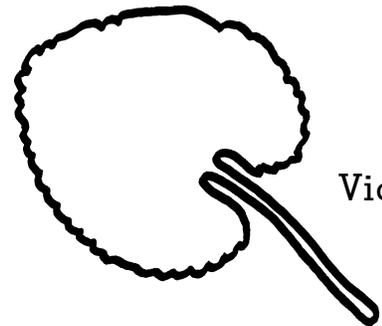


Geranium

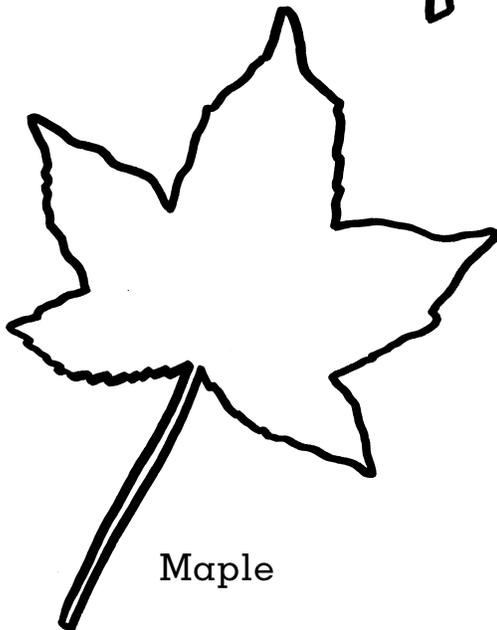
Hydrangea



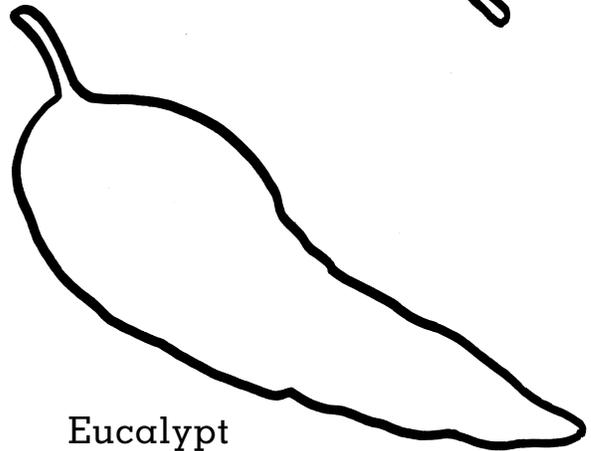
Ivy



Violet



Maple



Eucalypt