

# *Native Plant Leaf Rubbings*

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Native Plant Leaf Rubbings

Get to know the plants in your area with this simple nature inspired art activity.

What is a native plant? A native plant occurs naturally in an area with no human intervention.

California is home to more native plants than any other state in the country. California has about 6,500 native plant species!

Can you identify a native plant in your area?

## **MATERIALS LIST**

**Crayons**

Several different shaped leaves

**Paper**

Watercolor paints and brushes *(optional)*

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## **DIRECTIONS**

### **Step 1: Find your leaves**

Take a walk outside to find leaves that might be good for rubbings. Look for mostly flat leaves with visible veins. What plants did you find on your walk? Remember to be gentle with the plants you encounter and to only pick leaves you identify.

To learn more about California native plants visit Theodore Payne Foundation at [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org).

### **Step 2: Crayon Rubbings**

Find a flat surface for your rubbings. Take your crayon of choice and peel the wrapping off the crayon. Take one leaf and place it under the paper. Place your crayon flat on the paper above the leaf and gently rub the crayon over the leaf. You will need to hold down the leaf through the paper with your non-crayon hand so it doesn't move around. Once the leaf appears on the paper to your satisfaction, remove it, and choose a new leaf to rub in a different spot underneath the paper. You can repeat this step with as many leaves as you like.



**Add some watercolor paints!**

Try painting over your rubbings with watercolor paints. The crayon will resist the watercolor paint and make your leaves pop off the page.

# Images

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Photographs by Rebecca Kahn, 2020

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on our Instagram or Twitter?***

Ask an adult to send a photograph of your sculpture or drawing of the sculpture you made along with your name, your age, and the title of your sculpture to [outreach@theautry.org](mailto:outreach@theautry.org) for a chance to be featured on our social media! Accepting work from artists of all ages. Must be 18-years or older to submit.