

## Lovely Leaves Scrapbook

If you compare your hand to a leaf, they look quite a bit alike. Like your hand, the leaf has veins that run from the stem to the leaf. You can see these veins on the underside of the leaf. Your veins carry blood; a leaf's veins carry a watery liquid called sap. The veins of a leaf also act as bones, giving the leaf strength and structure.

### You'll need:

- A variety of undamaged leaves from at least 8 different plants—big and little. Find as many varied shapes, colours and sizes as you can.
- waxed paper
- a dish towel
- an iron
- glue
- a binder
- several sheets of 3-hole punched paper or thin card

### What to do:

- 1 Fold a piece of wax paper in half so the waxy surface is on the inside. Be sure your paper is big enough to cover your largest leaf.
- 2 Place a leaf between the folded waxed paper and cover it with the dish towel.
- 3 With an adult's help, press on the towel with a hot iron. This will melt the wax from the paper onto the leaf and stop it from drying out.
- 4 Glue each leaf onto a sheet of paper.
- 5 Beside it write when and where you found it (sketch the plant if you can) and what kind of leaf it is. It's fun to look up and include both the common and scientific names for your leaves, as well as giving it your own name based on what you notice about the leaf. A maple might be the "just-like-my-hand leaf", whereas a eucalyptus might be the "rabbit-ear leaf". Store your pages in the binder.

## Leaf Rubbings

### What to do:

- 1 Collect a variety of undamaged leaves, all different shapes and sizes.
- 2 Put the leaves on a smooth surface and lay a piece of paper over them.
- 3 Shade lightly over the leaves with a soft pencil or the flat side of a crayon.

A print of the leaf should appear on the paper. Use different coloured pencils to create a picture. You can cut out the leaf rubbings to glue onto thin cardboard to make special occasion cards. Several cards like this, with envelopes, would make a lovely gift for friends or family.

Both Lovely Leaves Scrapbook and Leaf Rubbings are part of the Young Naturalists' Club of BC's Bronze level Action Awards Quest. To find out more visit [www.ync.ca](http://www.ync.ca). The Young Naturalists' Club of BC is a registered charity that connects children ages 5-12 with nature through a network of volunteer-led nature clubs. Together children and their families discover nature on Explorer Day Field Trips, learn about nature in NatureWILD magazine, and take action to help the environment with the YNC Action Awards Quest.

