

Fall Leaves

Objective: Students will use bleeding tissue paper and crayon resist techniques to create a watercolor-like image of fall leaves.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

Warm colors- any color that is vivid or bold in nature.

Cool colors- any color that is calm or soothing in nature.

deciduous: trees/plants that lose their leaves for part of the year.

evergreen: trees/plants that stay green year round.



Materials: bleeding tissue paper, crayons/oil pastels, colored pencils, watercolor paper, paintbrushes and cups of water.

Opening Activity: Ask students to name some colors they associate with fall or autumn. Let's talk about WHY we see oranges and browns at this time of year. In most of the US and Canada, and some parts of Mexico, deciduous trees go through a major change- their leaves pick up on hints in the weather (less sunshine during the day, for example) and they stop making FOOD! As the trees get ready to hibernate through the winter, their leaves lose the bright green pigment of chlorophyll and other WARM COLOR pigments in tree leaves can be seen shining through: reds, yellows, orange... and eventually BROWN. Learn more in this video: <https://youtu.be/UuTrDnzmMxY>

Distribute the falling leaf template and colored pencils and invite students to color these leaves with fall colors.

Core Activity: Set out water color paper and crayons/oil pastels. Have students outline a few leaf shapes with the crayons and oil pastels, and then color them in with colored pencils. Then, set out the water cups and paintbrushes. Cut the tissue paper in half and give small sheets to each student, 2 different colors will work best. Students will rip off a piece of the paper, paint it with water, and stick it on their watercolor paper all around and over the leaves. Once their sheet is full of wet strips of tissue paper, set these aside to dry. When they dry, have students gently remove the tissue to reveal a beautiful fall leaf picture!

Reflection: As students clean and reset the space, ask them to share their thoughts on the changing of the seasons. Do they like the cooler weather, longer nights of autumn and winter? Why or why not?

