

## Pressed Plant Pictures

### What's The Plan?

Many artists are famous for making incredible drawings and paintings of plants that are so detailed they look like they could be real. However, today you can make artwork even more realistic than some of the greatest artists, by using real plants to create a masterpiece.

### What You'll Need:

**Here's a list of everything you'll need!**

- 2 pieces of blank white or colored paper
  - Heavy books for pressing
  - Glue
- Optional: magnifying glasses for closer examination of collected items

# What To Do:

## 1. Collect Your Materials

First, go on a walk! As you are walking, try to find some freshly fallen leaves (dry leaves may not work well for this project, but do not pull them off of trees as they need them to stay healthy).

## 2. Create Your Artwork

On a blank piece of paper, arrange your leaves in a way that you like. Some cool leaf arrangement ideas are shown below!



Once you like how your leaves have been arranged, carefully place another piece of paper ovetop of the paper with the leaves, and firmly press down. Use heavy books or a heavy object to stack on top of the paper so the leaves stay flat.

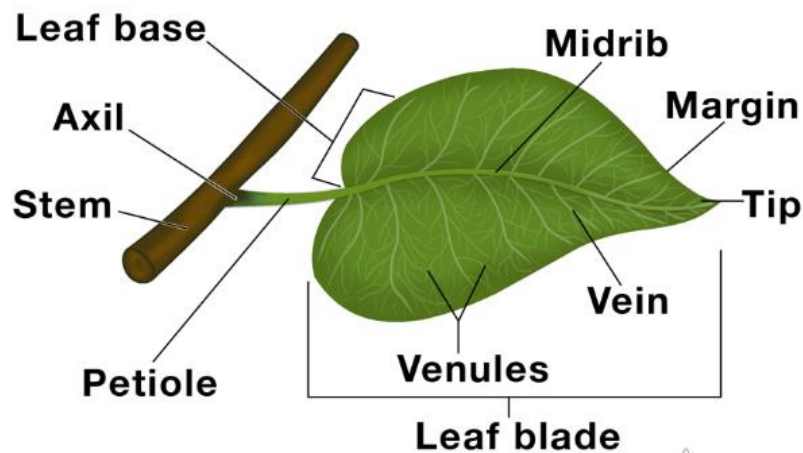
## 3. Press Your Plants

Let your pressed plants sit with the heavy object on top of them for about 24 hours, and then carefully pull the paper off to reveal your artwork!

# Why Did We Do It?

Pressing plants gives us a cool opportunity to examine the anatomy of a plant, especially its leaves! See if you can identify these parts of the leaf on your own pressed plants as you read through the next section!

## Parts of a Leaf



- *Petiole*: Connects the leaf to the rest of the plant, and helps it stand upright.
- *Leaf Blade*: The flat, green part of the leaf. It helps the plant make food for itself by taking energy from the sun in a process called photosynthesis.
- *Photosynthesis*: Unlike humans, plants don't have to eat food to stay alive, they can make their own! By taking light from the sun, and Carbon Dioxide from the air, plants can create energy and food for themselves, and release oxygen for us to breathe!
- *Midrib*: Similar to the leaf spine. It helps the leaf stay upright and not droop down. It is also hollow, and allows water and nutrients to flow through it to all the parts of the leaf.

- *Vein*: Like the midrib, the veins connect to all the parts of the leaf and help transport water and nutrients to it.
- *Venules*: The venules connect to the veins, and get important materials transported even further along the leaf, reaching all parts of the leaf blade.

## How Did It Go?

We'd love to hear about all the amazing STEM projects you're doing! Show us your finished projects on any of the following social media platforms by tagging us!

Twitter: @MyMindsInMotion  
Facebook: @mindsinmotion2014 || @ucactiveliving  
Instagram: @ucalgaryactive



Let us know how you felt about the project! Please [click here](#) or scan the QR code above to fill out a short survey!