

“In the Wild”

Module 3, Nature Rubbings



Prompt:

Objects have different textures. Some things are bumpy. Others are smooth. Explore textures in nature by rubbing a crayon over objects you found outside!

Materials:

- Crayons (preferably Jumbo sized), colored pencils, or pencils
 - **Note:** you will need to peel the wrappers off of the crayons. This may be something you do ahead of time, or your child can do as part of preparing for the activity.
- Different kinds of scrap paper
 - Try: newspaper, printer paper, construction paper, wrapping paper, tissue paper, paper towels
- Natural materials collected from outside – try different leaves, pine needles, sticks, bark, rocks
- Scissors, hole punch, yarn (optional)

Instructions:

1. Read the prompt with your child, watch the video below in the “Resources” section below.
2. Model for your child how to do a rubbing.
 - Place a piece of paper over a leaf (or any of your objects). Leaves will generally have one side that is “bumpier” than the other. This is the side that should touch your paper.
 - Hold the crayon at an angle and gently scribble all over the paper until the texture of the leaf starts to appear!
 - Show them all of the different kinds of paper and different colors of crayons.
3. Give your child time to practice and ask questions before you let them have free reign.
4. Encourage them to try as many different kinds of rubbings as they can with their natural materials.
5. If it is appropriate for your child, show them how to cut out their rubbings, hole punch them, and string yarn through them to make a decoration for your home or necklace,

garland, or bracelet.

Resources:

Boston Children's Museum's Art Educator Faith demonstrates how to do all sorts of nature rubbings in this short Earth Day video (also available on the Week 1 video playlist):

<https://www.facebook.com/BostonChildrensMuseum/videos/245125076861383>

Extensions:

If your child needs more challenges to go along with this activity:

- Invite them to combine two or more leaves (or other objects) and do one rubbing of them together.
- Encourage your child to try doing rubbings on household materials like toys, kitchen utensils, and furniture surfaces. Be very careful not to get crayon on these items!
- Use scrap paper to make collage of a tree trunk. Encourage your child to cut out the rubbings and attach them with tape or glue onto the trunk. Ask, *What critters live in your tree?* Invite your child to draw the critters and add them to their collage.
- Your child can try to do rubbings with different art supplies – what happens when they use markers or pens?

Together with your child, go to the “In the Wild” topic on Flipgrid and share their favorite nature rubbings.