

Fall

What to do

1. Cut wreath shapes out of paper and punch a hole at the top of each.
2. The children can paint or color the wreath shape. Let dry.
3. While the wreaths are drying, go outside on a fall hunt for items such as acorns, dried leaves, twigs, etc.
4. Back inside, spread the items out on a table. Let the children select the fall items they want for their wreath and glue them on.
5. When the wreaths are dry, tie yarn in a loop through the hole at the top of the wreath for hanging.

More to do

Art: Make other seasonal wreaths. For spring, make heart-shaped wreaths and use paper doilies and dried flowers tied with pink ribbons. For summer, make a beach wreath using dribbled sand, seaweed, shells, bay leaves, pebbles, etc. For winter, use cones from different evergreens (especially little hemlock cones), nuts like almonds, whole cinnamon and star-shaped anise, nutmeg gold stars and red ribbon.

Math: Collect extra fall items and place in a basket for sorting or counting practice.

Related books

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert

Chicken Soup with Rice by Maurice Sendak

■ Linda Atamian, Charlestown, RI

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Leaves Change Color

3+

Science skills

Children learn new words for leaf pigments.

Materials

Why Do Leaves Change Color? by Betsy Maestro

Fall leaves of various colors

What to do

1. Read the book and discuss with the children the color change process.
2. Tell the children the names of the pigments responsible for the change: xanthophyll, carotene and anthocyanin.
3. Take the children on a fall walk to collect colored leaves.
4. Gather them together in a group and teach the pigment names using the leaves as visual aids and the rhyme below.

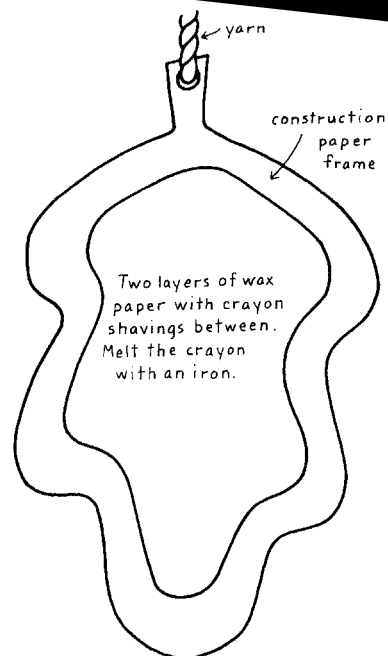
Original poem

*Xanthophyll, xanthophyll
Pretty yellow fellow
When it turns old, he makes leaves gold
Xanthophyll is yellow.*

*Carotene, carotene
It's orange as can be
When fall is near, orange leaves are here
Carotene is orange.*

*Anthocyanin, anthocyanin
It makes red so bright
Inside the leaves it hides till fall
And turns leaves red out of sight!*

■ Lisa M. Lang, Parkersburg, WV



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Fall Leaf Mobiles

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Science skills
Children practice fine motor skills.

Materials

Leaf patterns

8½" x 11" (22.5 cm x 27.5 cm) paper

Scissors

Small sponges made by cutting a large sponge into 2" x 3" (5 cm x 7.5 cm) pieces

Small cups of tempera paint: red, yellow, orange, brown

String or yarn, 24" (60 cm) long

Stapler

What to do

1. Trace three or four leaves onto one 8½" x 11" piece of paper (see next page).
2. Make a copy of the leaf page for each child.
3. Show the children how to sponge paint the leaves.
4. Give each child a leaf page and let her sponge paint them.
5. After the pages are dry, the children may turn the paper over and sponge paint the whole backside of the paper. They may like to draw their own leaf designs to sponge paint.
6. When both sides are dry, ask the children to cut out the leaves.
7. Help the children attach the leaves to the length of yarn with a stapler.
8. Hang the leaf mobile by one end of the yarn and watch the falling leaves.