

Leaf Prints

Inspired by *June's Solar Oven* by Jen Malia.

Goal: Use the sun to make art prints.

You will need:

- Construction paper
- Leaves, flowers, or other small objects
- Small rocks to weigh down the print
- A sunny day

What to do:

- Gather objects to design your art print. Consider which leaves, flowers, or other objects might make an interesting print that you enjoy. You might try looking at their shadows for inspiration.
- Lay the objects on construction paper. Put the paper outside in the sun. You may need to hold the objects in place with a small rock.
- Leave your prints in the sun for three hours. Check the prints every 30 minutes and take a picture with a cell phone each time you observe the prints. Do you notice any changes? If so, what? What, if anything, stayed the same? Create a chart that lists each time you checked the prints and your observations.

What to consider:

- What happens when you overlap objects?
- Experiment with different colors of construction paper. Which colors work best?
- Can the sun transfer the color of an object onto the paper?
- How long should you leave your print in the sun to get the best results?
- Why might you need to preserve your prints? What will happen to them over time? How could you preserve your print?
- Research the science behind making prints. How does the sun change the color/tone of the paper?
- How can you use shade to alter your print?
- What art materials could you use to decorate your print?

