

Parts of a Leaf! (Attached is a photo of what this learning center might look like.)

In this learning center students will label the different parts of a leaf. They will begin by reading the information provided. They will then do a leaf rubbing and label it. As an extension students will reflect on the different parts of a leaf and why they are important.

Materials:

- Printed document about the different parts of a leaf
- Printed document containing student directions
- Glue and scissors
- Bare crayons
- Poster/display board
- Small area with desk or table
- Blank paper

Preparation:

1. Begin by choosing an area for this center to be housed. Ideally 1-4 students should be able to work on this project at once.
2. It is time to make your Parts of a Leaf poster/display. Begin by printing pages 2- of this document.
3. Cut out each section and the photo
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Directions
 - c. Information
 - i. Blade
 - ii. Midrib
 - iii. Vein
 - iv. Petiole
 - d. Extension activity
4. Glue each section and the photo onto your poster board or display board. Feel free to make your board as simple or complex as you would like.
5. Place the display board in an area that the students can easily read it while at the center.
6. Once your board is ready it is time for you to go on a leaf hunt. Collect at least 20 leaves and put them in a manila envelope, a large Ziploc bag, or a plastic container. Put this container on the desk/ table. You may need to replace or add leaves as time goes on.
7. Remove the wrappers from a box of at least 8 crayons. Put the crayons at the desk/table.
8. Place a stack on blank paper on the desk/table.
9. Once your learning center is ready for student use, do a whole-class demonstration. Remind students that they must take turns and set a limit on the number of students that can participate at a time. Also, explain when they can use the learning center, and whether or not you want them to turn in their final products.

Parts of a Leaf!

Introduction:

Did you know that leaves have many different parts? Today you are going to explore a few of their parts and learn about why they are important.

Blade:

The blade is the broad and flat part of the leaf.

Midrib:

The midrib is the main, central vein of the leaf.

Veins:

The veins are smaller than the midrib and expand off the midrib throughout the leaf.

Petiole:

The Petiole is the leaf stalk. It connects the blade to the stem.

Directions:

1. Now that you have read about the different parts of a leaf, take 3 different leaves out of the container.
2. Look at the leaves closely. Find the blade, midrib, veins, and petiole.
3. Pick a crayon and a blank piece of paper.
4. Place one leaf under your piece of paper and rub it with the side of the crayon.
5. Label the different parts of the leaf.
 - Blade
 - Midrib
 - Veins
 - Petiole
6. Do a rubbing of another leaf and label it.
7. On the back of your paper write about the differences and similarities you see in the leaves you labeled. Answer:

Why is each part of the leaf important?

What would happen if the leaf did not have veins?

