

Lesson Plan

Autumn Leaves Observational Art

Students will participate in a class discussion about the autumn changes happening around them. Then, they will see and hear a read aloud of the book *Autumn Leaves* by Ken Robbins. Following the discussion and read aloud, students will have time to explore the leaves on their school grounds. Each child will choose a leaf to bring inside, examine, and use to create observational art. Finally, students will have the opportunity to submit their artwork to the Museum of the White Mountains for display on the museum's website!

PROCEDURE

Part 2: Using a computer and projector, play [this video of a read aloud of *Autumn Leaves* by Ken Robbins](#). Stop the video at 5:05 after the page about maple trees. The information presented after this point is not likely to be helpful to younger students, and the text becomes denser. Following the read aloud, promote more discussion by asking the class questions such as:

- Do you recognize any of the leaves or trees from the book?
- What do you want to know more about?
- Did you learn something new from the book?
- Are there any words in the book that you don't know? (It may be beneficial to pause the video and explain certain words as they're read, such as jagged, narrow, and veins.)

Part 4: Bring the students and their leaves back into the classroom. Supply students with watercolor paper (or thick paper) and pencils. Instruct them to sketch their leaves on the paper (without tracing). Encourage them to include details such as the stem, veins, and any spots or holes. After sketching, provide students with watercolor paints, paintbrushes, and water cups, and scrap paper. Instruct them to paint their sketches with the same colors they see on their collected leaves. They can use the scrap paper to experiment with colors as they search for the most accurate shades. Encourage the children to mix colors as well as try painting with varying amounts of water.



Materials

- Computer that can connect to the internet
- Projector that can connect to computer
- Watercolor paper (or thicker paper)
 - Pencils
 - Watercolor paints
 - Paint brushes
 - Water cups

Part 1: Lead the class in a discussion about the autumn changes they're noticing around them. Some topics that may be brought up are:

- Temperature is cooler
- Some leaves are changing colors
- Leaves are falling off the trees
- Days are getting shorter

Part 3: Bring the class outside to a playground, a sports field, or even a blacktop with trees around the perimeter. Allow the children to explore the trees, fallen leaves, and other plants in the area. Guide them to each choose one leaf, either from a tree, the ground, or a plant.

Part 5 (Optional): Students and teachers can use a camera or scanner to obtain digital copies of the students' artwork. After saving the images to a computer, they can be uploaded to the [Museum's Fridge online exhibition page](#).