



Watercolour Nature Printing

Created by Margaret Joba-Woodruff

A step-by-step guide to creating your very own nature print with materials from the earth and a lovely array of watercolours!

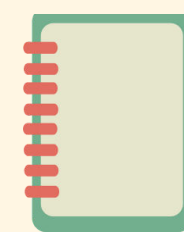
(Ages 6+)

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED:

Before you start creating your nature print, make sure you have everything from the list below!



WATERCOLOUR PAINTS (PAN SETS NOT TUBE WATERCOLOURS)



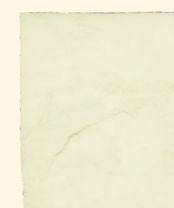
SKETCHBOOK OR SCRAPBOOK FOR PRESSING/DRYING PRINTS



MEDIUM PAINT BRUSH



CONTAINER FOR WATER



WATERCOLOUR OR MIXED MEDIA PAPER

BEGIN BY FORAGING FOR LEAVES & HERBS!

If you are in a park, look for these types of leaves:



MAPLE LEAF



CEDAR SPRIG

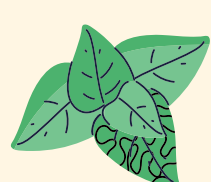


DANDELION LEAVES

Tips for Foraging:

- Try to look for leaves that have already fallen instead of picking from live plants
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If you are in your backyard/garden, look for these types of herbs:



MINT



CILANTRO



SAGE



FLAT LEAFY GREENS LIKE SPINACH OR SWISS CHARD



METHOD #1: QUICK DRY TECHNIQUE

1. Paint watercolour onto the underside of the leaf, the side with the spines.
2. Lift the leaf from the edges or stem and place the painted side down onto the watercolour paper.
3. Once you place the leaf, try hard not to slide it around! Keeping two fingers pressing down on the center of the leaf, press your fingers over every corner of the leaf.
4. Lift the leaf to reveal your print!

[experiment with using more water and less pigment as well as using more pigment and less water!]

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CREATE A NEGATIVE SHAPE WITH THE LEAF, TRY THIS:

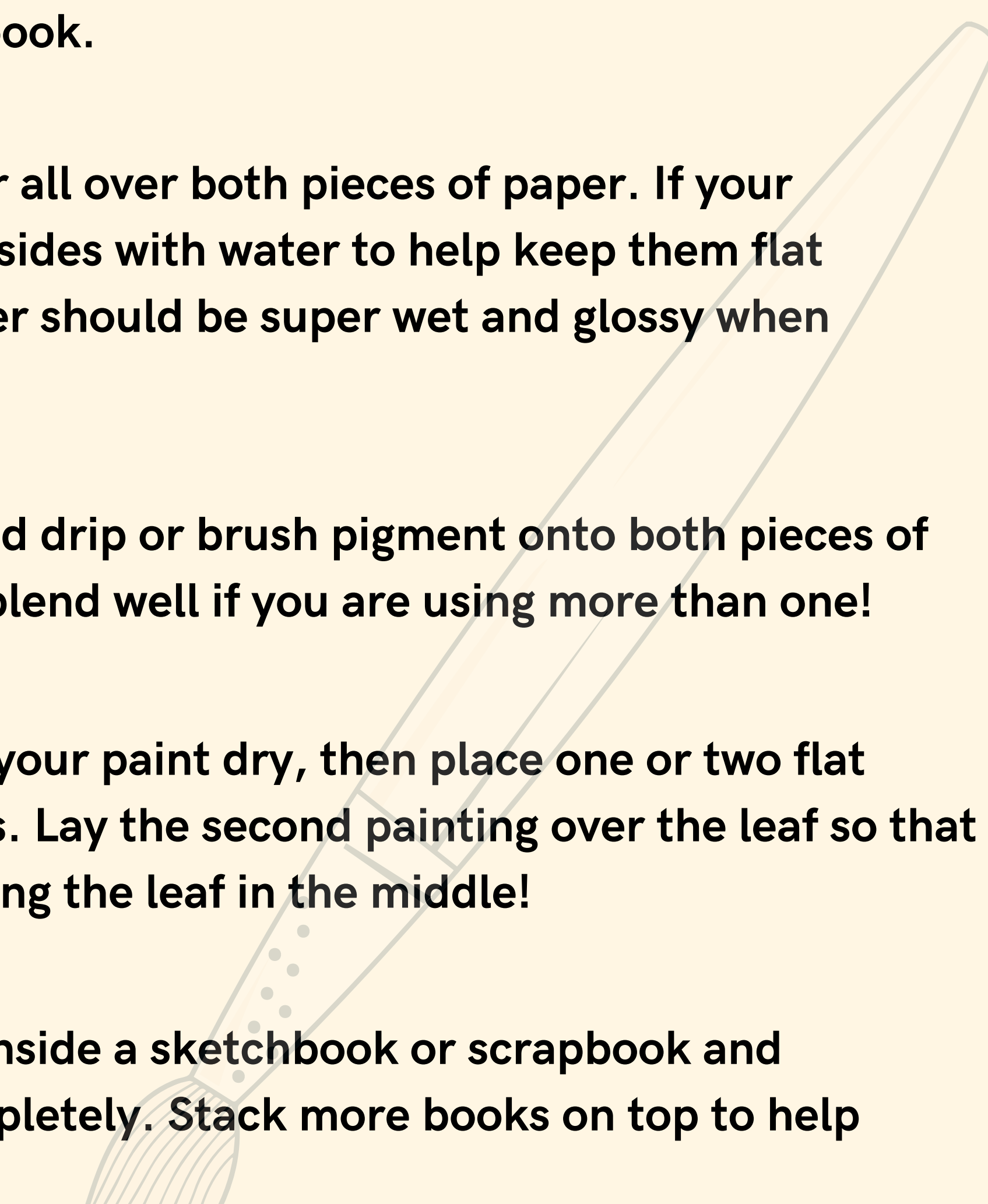
1. Place a clean leaf onto the page.
2. Use one hand to hold the leaf in place, and brush paint from the center out over the edges, working your way around the leaf to create an outline of the shape.
3. For a more blurred effect, dampen the paper first, before placing the leaf down.

Tips for creating your Nature Print:

- Use one colour to paint on the leaf and a different colour to paint around the leaf!
- Combine warm and cool colours to make your leaf prints pop off the page!
- Experiment with layering, repetition, and the interactions between negative and positive space!



METHOD #2: WET TECHNIQUE

1. Cut two pieces of paper roughly the same size. Make sure they are smaller than your sketchbook or scrapbook.
 2. Using clean water, paint water all over both pieces of paper. If your paper is warping a lot, coat both sides with water to help keep them flat while you are working. Your paper should be super wet and glossy when held up to the light!
 3. Choose one or two colours and drip or brush pigment onto both pieces of paper. Choose colours that will blend well if you are using more than one!
 4. Work quickly without letting your paint dry, then place one or two flat leaves onto one of your paintings. Lay the second painting over the leaf so that both painted sides are sandwiching the leaf in the middle!
 5. Place the sandwiched pages inside a sketchbook or scrapbook and leave them overnight to dry completely. Stack more books on top to help press down the prints!
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