

Plant Smash Shamrocks



Looking for a unique St. Patrick's Day activity? Making Plant Smash Shamrocks is a fun and kookie way to embrace the spirit of the holiday while learning about clovers, chlorophyll, and why leaves change color throughout the year, all while getting outdoors and exploring the plants in your neighborhood.

MATERIALS

Sturdy White Paper * Wax Paper * Hammer * Green Leaves * Tape

STEPS

- 1) Choose your leaves! Collect a variety of leaves so you can experiment with different colors, patterns, and saturation levels. Consider going for a walk outside and responsibly picking a variety of leaves, and don't ignore the weeds- Things like dandelion leaves make great pigment, as does grass. Do you have any lettuce in your house? Add those leafy greens to your collection! Spinach and dark, soft lettuces work really well.
- 2) Draw a large shamrock on the paper, using all the space.
- 3) Place your leaves on top of the paper.
- 4) Cut a piece of wax paper about 1 inch bigger than the white paper and lay it on top of the leaves. Tape the edges of it to the surface it's on.
- 5) Holding the wax paper down with one hand, use the other hand to hammer all over the paper. Be careful, but use force! This will ensure the chlorophyll seeps out of the leaves and onto the paper.
- 6) Remove the wax paper and move the leaves from the page to reveal the green speckled design!
- 7) Let the page dry, then carefully cut out your shamrocks. What kind of patterns do you see? Which leaves do you think worked the best, and why?



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED LEARNING

Why are leaves green?

Learn about chlorophyll with [Colossal Questions HERE!](#)

What is photosynthesis?

Discover how this amazing process works with [The Dr. Binocs Show HERE!](#)

Why do leaves change color?

Explore the science of seasonal trees with [Minute Earth HERE!](#)

Want to explore more?

Try this chlorophyll science experiment from [Children's Museum of South Dakota HERE!](#)



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