

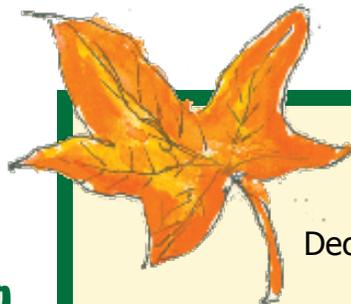


Enjoy

Nature Near You

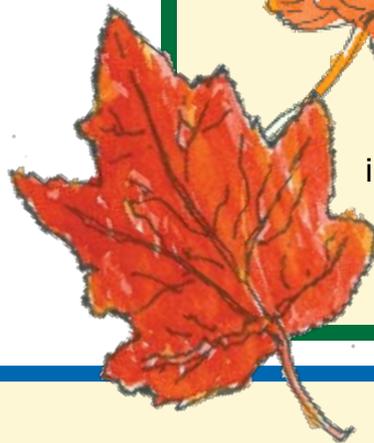
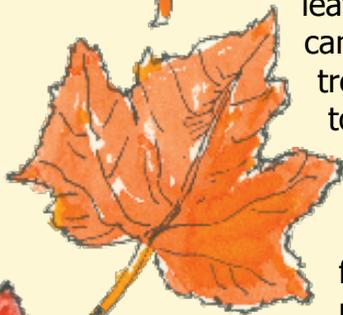
In Fall

Getting your family in touch with **NATURE** is as simple as walking outside. Have fun and learn together outdoors with these simple activities you can do in your backyard... and beyond!



LEAF ART

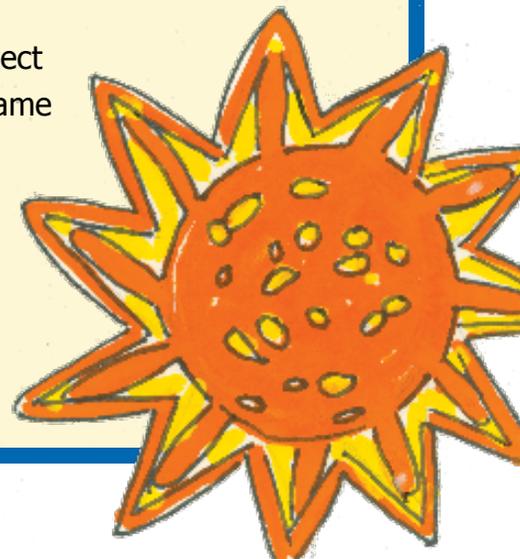
Deciduous trees are those that shed their leaves in winter. Their thin leaves cannot survive freezing, so the trees seal them off and drop them to keep from losing water in the cold, dry air of winter. Autumn leaves come in many shapes, sizes and colors. Pick up some fallen leaves from your yard or neighborhood. Place them on construction paper and glue them in place to make pictures. Want to enjoy your autumn leaves all year long? Make your artwork into a place mat by covering it with clear contact paper.



FIND IT!

Take a hike at a local park or other natural area, or even around the neighborhood. See if you can spot all of these things, or maybe more than one of each:

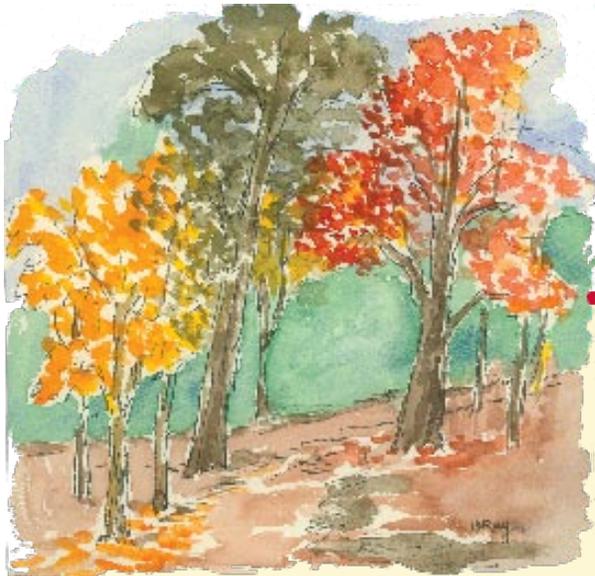
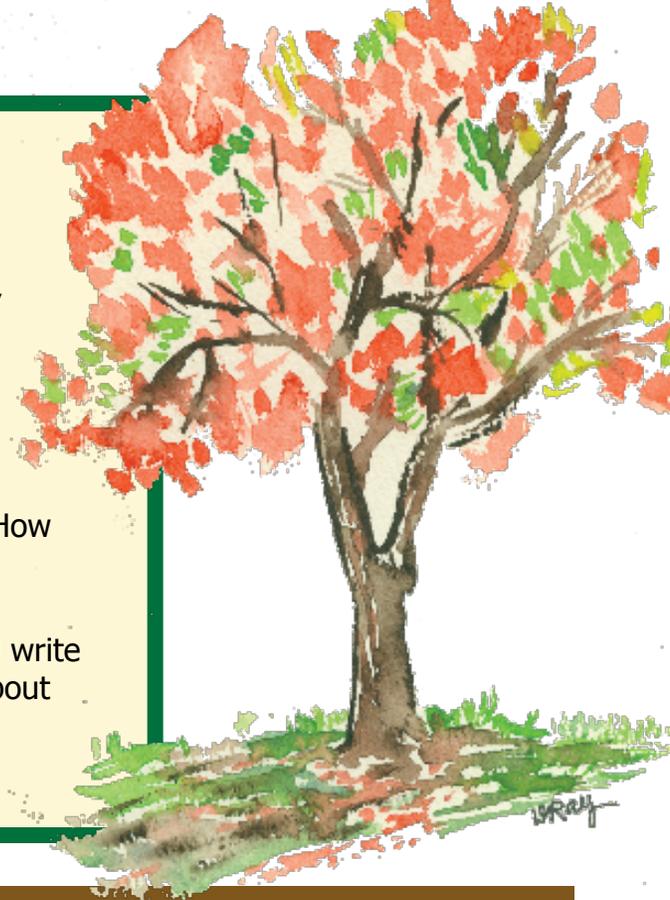
-  A bright yellow object
-  Something shaped like a star
-  Something squishy
-  An animal preparing for winter
-  Something hard, but smooth
-  A place where water is, or has been
-  An item made by - or from - trees
-  A seed, or its pod or husk
-  A tiny, beautiful object
-  A plant that's the same height as you
-  Something that makes noise
-  Man-made litter (throw it in a trash can)



FAMILY TREE

Choose one tree in your yard to be your "family" tree. If you don't have any trees, choose a tree at a park, school, library or other place you visit often. Make a family tree scrapbook to record the things you do and learn as you get to know your tree this year.

- 🍁 Draw or take a picture of your tree in fall. Look carefully at the leaves and any seed-bearing parts. How has your tree changed since summer?
- 🍁 Take turns listing words that describe your tree, and write these down. Then work together to write a poem about your tree, using the words you listed.



TREASURE BOX

Decorate a leftover egg carton, and use it to hold small items you collect outdoors. Reusing the egg carton instead of throwing it away helps to conserve our planet's resources. You can collect things like seeds, shells and stones. (Just don't put living insects or animals in the carton. They need to breathe, and they prefer to live outdoors!)



STAYING SAFE

Fall is a beautiful time for a walk in the woods. Watch your step on trails that may be covered with leaves, as they can be slippery. Stay on the trail so you don't get lost. On most trails, you can follow the "blazes" – colored marks on trees or rocks that show you are on the right path. Be aware that hunters may be in the woods in fall. You can always hike safely in areas that are closed to hunting (like State Parks and some State Forests), or plan your walk for a Sunday.

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