

Exploring Texture

Rubbings of natural objects show their textures



Age: 3+

Time: 30 minutes

Today, you will explore textures (rough, smooth, soft, hard, bumpy, prickly) in the Arboretum using paper and crayons.

Here's How:

1. Gather natural objects including bark, leaves, small branches you find on the ground in the Children's Discovery Forest.

- How would you describe the textures of these objects?

2. Place one of the natural objects on a flat surface. Cover it with paper. Using a crayon color the paper atop the object. This is called making a rubbing.

- You will see the texture of the object on the paper.

- The paper will be smooth, so the texture is called visual texture.

- 3. Make a rubbing with another object,** and then another, using different colors.
- 4.** Compare the rubbings.
- 5.** Hang your page of beautiful rubbings on the wall or cut rubbings into shapes and glue onto paper to make a picture filled with visual textures.



The Back Story:

Texture is how a surface feels (rough, smooth, soft, hard, bumpy, slippery, prickly). Tactile texture is 3-dimensional and can be felt with your hands. When you see textures on smooth paper it is called visual texture. You can create visual texture by making rubbings of actual 3-dimensional surfaces.