

HOW TO PRESS LEAVES

Option 1: Press Your Leaves Gather all the leaves you have collected and place them side by side on a piece of newspaper. Put another piece of newspaper on top. Then place a really heavy book on top of the leaves and don't touch for 1-2 weeks. Once dry you may carefully spray with acrylic craft spray or place your pressed leaves between two pieces of wax paper, place a towel over the wax paper, and then briefly iron

Option 2: Paint a thick layer of Modge-Podge over one side of your leaf, let dry, and then paint the opposite side. Modge-Podge will preserve the color and structures of the leaf for about 5-7 years. Once your leaves are preserved, use a leaf identification book or app to identify the tree your leaf belongs to. Glue your identified leaf into a nature notebook or journal, and include some details including: date found, location found, type of leaf, and draw attention to any interesting characteristics you notice (i.e. smooth edges)

Option 3: Put your leaves between the wax paper. Smooth the leaves down so that the edges aren't curled. Put a towel beneath the leaf and one on top. With parental help iron the top towel until the wax paper fuses together. Put a string through a hole in the top to make a leaf prism. You could also do a strip of wax paper with smaller leaves and make a leaf bookmark in the same way.

