

# Let's Explore...

# Plants and Animals

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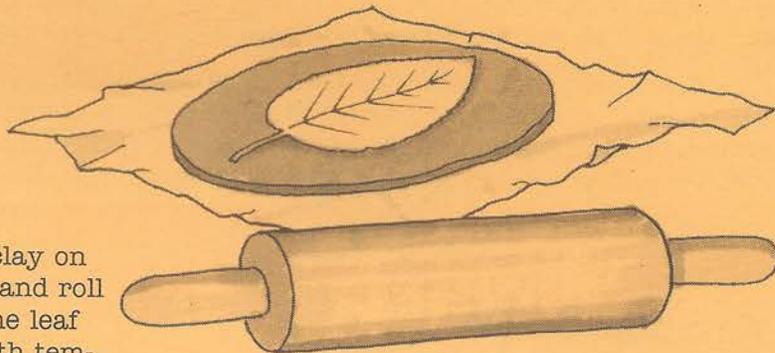
## Clay Leaf Prints

### Materials

self-drying clay  
rolling pin  
aluminum foil  
leaves

### Directions

Using a rolling pin, flatten a lump of clay on a piece of foil. Lay a leaf on the clay, and roll over it with the rolling pin. Remove the leaf and let the clay dry. Paint the clay with tempera if desired.



## Sketching and Photographing Animals

Your pet is a readily available model for sketching or photography. Dogs, cats, and other pets can assume "99" different poses. Sometime or other you have probably photographed or drawn a picture of your pet or a friend's.

Patience is a virtue while waiting for your subject animal to assume just the pose you want. You will have to discover, for example, where and when a rabbit likes to eat and then be ready and waiting for him if you want to catch him nibbling a leaf.

Put together an album of your animal pictures to share with others.

## Glycerin Leaves

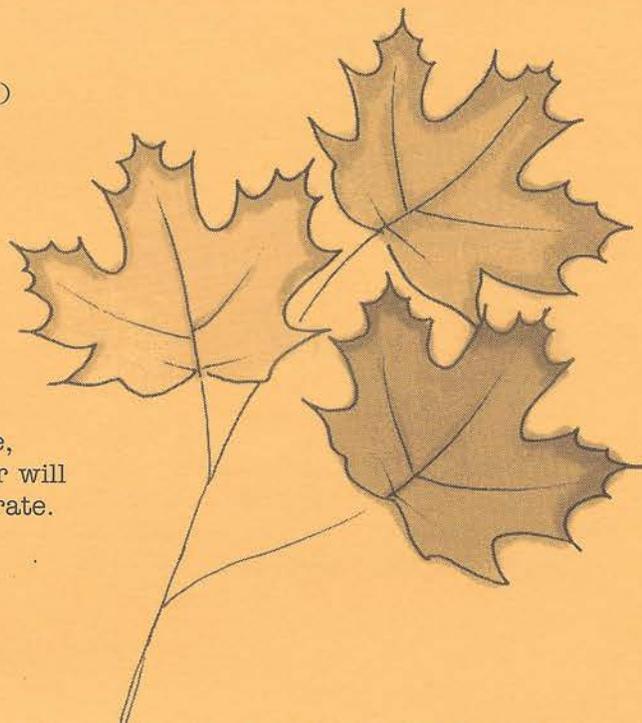
### Materials

glycerin (buy at drug store)  
small branch leaves (green or just change colors)  
newspaper  
hammer  
large jar

### Directions

Place the branch on several layers of newspaper. With a hammer, tap the end of the stem until it is slightly crushed.

In the jar, mix one part glycerin to two parts water. Place the pounded end of the branch into the glycerin mixture for two weeks. By that time, the leaves will be thicker to the touch, their color will have changed, and they will not fade or disintegrate.



## Take a Fall Foliage Walk

Take a family walk while the fall foliage is at its best. Take time to collect leaves for Clay Leaf Prints.

- Include, if you can, both woods and fields. Lots of dried materials such as milkweed pods, thistles, Queen Anne's lace, and many other interesting weeds can be found along the way.
- Make a bouquet when you get home of the things you have gathered.
- Look for signs of animals getting ready for winter. Do you see squirrels gathering nuts for the winter? Do you see geese flying south for the cold months? Do you see any insect cocoons?
- Look for seeds. See how they find ways to grow next year. Which fly through the air? Which are carried by animals or people? Which fall to the ground or are buried by animals? Try bringing some of each kind home. You could mount them on a piece of paper and identify them. Check your library for books about what you've seen.

## Terrarium Garden

You can grow a pretty little garden in a fish bowl, tank, jar, or other container. It needs hardly any water. The covered bowl keeps plants moist and growing nicely.

### Materials

jar or other container  
gravel or pebbles  
a few pieces of charcoal  
soil  
little plants (small ferns, ivy, mosses, wintergreen, hepatica)

### Directions

In the bottom of the jar, place a layer of pebbles or gravel. Add a few pieces of charcoal. Add about two inches of soil and a little water. Now plant your plants. Use a pencil or stick to firm the soil about the roots. Then water with a mister or sprinkle a little. Place near a window, but not in direct sunlight. Cover with plastic or a lid, but uncover occasionally to let a fresh supply of air into the terrarium.

