

Kids Explore!

Make A Falling Leaves T-Shirt or Paper Print

Use natural dyes or commercial tie-dye ink to decorate a t-shirt with falling leaves or other natural images. Or use tempera paint and paper!

Materials

- ◆ T-shirt — find a used one at a second-hand store or if it's new, be sure it's not "stain-resistant" (or paper)
- ◆ Natural dyes like beet juice or boiled onion skins, or tie-dye inks (or tempera paint)
- ◆ Several flat leaves, ferns, and other natural objects or cut out shapes of leaves, animals, etc.
- ◆ A plastic spray bottle for each color of ink (or paint brushes/old toothbrushes)
- ◆ Newspapers or other scrap paper

Adult help may be needed on steps with ⇒

1. Collect several nicely shaped leaves or other objects from nature. OR

cut out several leaf or animal shapes.

⇒ 2. Pour a small amount of dye in each of your spray bottles.

3. Cover your work area with scrap paper or newspapers. Put your t-shirt on the work area and tuck a thick pile of paper inside so the back and front don't touch. This will keep ink from bleeding from one side to the other.

4. Place your natural objects or cut-outs on the t-shirt in a pattern you like. Spray dye at each object or pattern.



The area under your objects should remain the color of your shirt, while the area around your objects will have interesting spray patterns.

5. For simpler leafy fun, do the same project, but use clean paper instead of a t-shirt and tempera paint instead of dyes. You can splatter paint onto your paper using paint brushes or old toothbrushes!