

A STEM in the Park

Take Home Activity

STEM

in the **PARK**™

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Leaf Rubbing



What To Do

- Go outside and collect leaves for leaf rubbing.
- Place your leaf on a hard surface.
- Place paper over top of the leaf.
- Rub the crayon over the paper until you can see the shape of the leaf.

Discussion questions:

What makes your leaf unique?

- Tulip Poplar – shaped like a tulip
- Ginkgo – shaped like a fan
- White Oak – rounded points that make a “W” shape”
- Sassafras – three points look like a bird’s foot

What kind of leaf is this?

- Search the internet for answers.

What other kinds of trees are in your neighborhood?

What are the ways trees are used?

Why are trees important to the environment?

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Tree Rings



Trees are some of nature's most accurate time keepers.

Their growth layers, appearing as rings in the cross section of the tree trunk, record evidence of floods, droughts, insect attacks, lightning strikes and even earthquakes.

Info: The more moisture in the environment that year, the wider the ring will appear. The ring will appear thinner if there was little water in the environment that year.

Directions:

- Go outside or to a park and find a tree stump.
- Many kinds of trees add one growth ring each year, usually consisting of a light colored ring from the summer and a dark colored ring from the winter.
- In order to figure out how old a tree is when it died, count each dark ring and then add five to the total number (for the years hard to see).

Discussion Questions:

How many rings does your tree stump have?

How old is your tree?

Were there wet years? Was it in the summer or winter?

Were there dry years? Was it in the summer or winter time?

This activity is brought to you by the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

