



Tree Bark Art – Bark Rubbing

Age: 5+ years **Duration:** 30 minutes

This is a lovely activity for all age groups. It draws participants in, working on observational and analytical skills.

Materials: Trees; A piece of light coloured paper per participant; A thick pencil, charcoal, or wax crayons per participant



Directions:

- Take a “nature walk” or go on a “tree search” any time of the year on your school grounds or in a nearby park.
- Define your search area with your class for safety.
- Instruct the group to visit trees of their choice, within this designated area and to look out for the distinctive bark, leaf and fruit patterns (the latter two from spring to autumn).
- Explain how to make bark rubbings by holding the paper carefully against a selected tree and rubbing the crayon over the paper with gentle pressure until the texture shows through.
- Once every student has had the chance to make rubbings, bring the group back together for a discussion about their thoughts, observations and artistic results.

Learn more about identifying different native Irish trees here:
<http://treecouncil.ie/tree-advice/native-species/>

Before or after the ‘bark rubbing’ activity you could carry out one of the fun activities found on the UK woodland trust website:

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/>

