

PLANT PIGMENT ART

Experiment with plant pigments as a material to make your own art. Plant pigments are what give plants their color. For example, green leaves get their color from a pigment called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll allows plants to absorb energy from sunlight.

MAKE ART USING PLANT PIGMENTS

1. Look for leaves and flower petals with different colors or different shades of the same color. Carefully harvest some of the leaves and flowers. Make sure you have permission to harvest. Weeds like dandelions or plantain can be a great source of leaves and flowers to harvest. You could also experiment with blades of grass. When you are deciding if you should harvest from a plant, make sure:
 - You have permission to pick parts of the plant
 - There is a lot of that plant (don't take the only one of something)
 - It won't be obvious that you took a part of the plant
2. Prepare a work space. Put newspaper or paper plates or other paper out to hold the plants.
3. Get your blank paper ready.
4. There are several ways to get the plant pigments onto the paper:
 - Tear or scrunch up the plant part and rub it onto the paper.
 - Sandwich the plant part between the paper (on the bottom) and a piece of waxed paper. Then use a rock or a hammer to gently pound the area over the plant part.
5. Experiment with the different colors that the plant parts make.
6. Can you use those colors to draw a picture?



After you have made your art, ask yourself:

- Which plants transferred the most pigment onto the paper?
- Is there anything similar about the plants that transferred the most or the least pigment?
- Did any of the colors look very different on paper compared to the plant?