



## ART IN THE GARDEN

### OBJECTIVES

Now that it is fall, many of the leaves have fallen from the trees, and cool plants are still doing well. Many garden flowers and plants have gone to seed. Students will create artwork using these leaves and plants during this art in the garden session.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Assorted leaves in various colors and shapes
- Glue
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Scissors
- Optional: Paint, Pencils, Colored pencils

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What season is it in the garden?
- Which plants are losing leaves and which ones are still holding on?
- What colors and shapes of plants will you use?
- What patterns and designs will you create with the plants?
- How will you preserve the plants and leaves for future projects?
- What other ways can you think of to use plants and leaves in art projects?

### LESSON

1. Gather a variety of leaves and plant parts from around your school garden or yard. Look for different colors and shapes. Make note of all the plants that did not lose their leaves.
2. After you've gathered a sufficient number of leaves, sit down with the students and sort them by color, form, or size. This is an excellent opportunity to teach about the many colors, shapes, and textures of leaves that fell and the plants that still have their leaves in the garden.
3. To make a leaf collage, have the students glue the leaves onto construction paper or cardstock. Encourage them to try different patterns and designs from all the leaves fallen and draw the ones that didn't fall. For an added touch, you can also have your students paint the leaves before they glue them down. Or add inspirational words that they felt about the fallen and thriving leaves.

### EXTENSIONS & VARIATIONS

If you have extra leaves, try pressing them to preserve them for future projects. Here's how:

1. Place the leaves between two pieces of parchment paper or wax paper.
2. Place a heavy book on top of the papers to weigh them down.
3. Leave the leaves for 1-2 weeks, then remove and enjoy!

Pressing leaves is a great way to preserve them for future art projects or to use as decoration in a scrapbook.