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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## LEAF SMASHING

Create your own unique pattern using natural dyes from leaves and flowers! Using simple household materials and natural elements, you can create a design that showcases the environment around you.

### MATERIALS:

- Hammer
- White 100% cotton cloth (or watercolor paper)
- Variety of leaves and flowers
- Towel
- Masking or painter's tape
- Hard surface
- Sticky notes and writing utensil (optional)
- 1 gallon of water
- 1 pint of vinegar
- Mixing bowl

### PROCEDURE:

**Step 1:** Select a variety of leaves and flowers. Try to choose leaves that vary in color, like dark green, purple, and red. Be sure that the leaves are fresh; keeping leaves out overnight or for several days can cause them to dry out and lose color intensity.



**Step 2:** Place your cloth on top of a towel. Be sure that the towel is placed on top of a hard surface like a wooden board or countertop.



**Step 3:** Arrange your leaves on top of your cloth. Tape the leaves down flat on the fabric. Be sure to cover the whole leaf with tape.



**Step 4:** Place your cloth on top of the towel. Then turn the fabric over so the fabric side is up and the taped side is down. Smooth over the taped leaf to be sure it is flat before hammering.



**Step 5:** With the fabric side up, use the hammer to lightly pound the area of the leaf. To give you more control of the hammer, hold the head of the hammer rather than the handle. Be sure an adult is helping you with this step!



**Step 6:** As you begin to hammer, you will see color bleed through the fabric. Repeat step 5 for all leaves and/or flowers you have taped on your fabric. Once you are satisfied with the shape and color of the stained leaf, flip the cloth and peel away the masking tape and remove the leaf.

**Step 7:** Once your design is complete and masking tape is removed, soak the cloth in a mixture of 1 pint of vinegar and 1 gallon of water to set the design. Let the cloth soak in the vinegar-water solution for about 15 minutes.



**Step 8:** You may choose to label your leaf/flower dyes to note which items worked well.

