



Cambridge University

Botanic Garden

FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT HOME

Leaf foil art

You will need:

- Leaves
- Aluminium foil
- Permanent markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Card
- String (optional for hanging)

Ages
7+



Leaves do a very important job for plants – they capture energy from the sun and use it to make food.

Leaves come in all different shapes and sizes and can be very beautiful.

Follow the steps on the next page to make some dazzling leaf foil art.

AMAZING LEAF FACTS

- The biggest leaves come from the Giant Taro plant. One leaf was 3 metres long and almost 2 metres wide – bigger than a super king sized bed.
- The oldest leaf in the world comes from a desert plant called Welwitschia. These plants only have 2 leaves for their whole life and some are over 2,000 years old.
- One of the weirdest leaves in the world comes from the Venus Fly Trap. This plant has special leaves that trap and digest insects.



1. Go on a leaf hunt

Head outside to find some leaves. Look for leaves that are sturdy, have an interesting shape and obvious veins.



2. Choose a leaf for your leaf art

Start off by choosing a smallish leaf before having a go with bigger leaves. Place your leaf on a hard surface like a table with the veiny side facing upwards.



3. Cover with foil.

Place some aluminium foil over your leaf so it is completely covered.



4. Smooth to reveal leaf shape

Hold the foil in place with one hand while you smooth down the foil with the other. Smooth along the stem and the veins. Smooth around the edge of the leaf. Take your time and don't rush.



5. Add some colour

Use permanent markers to colour in the details of your leaf. Trace around the edge of the leaf and along all the veins. Colour in different sections.



6. Cut out your leaf shape

Use scissors to carefully cut around your leaf. Take your time as foil is quite delicate. Ask an adult for help if you need it.



7. Apply glue

Put some glue on the back of your leaf.



4. Stick your leaf onto card and admire!

Add some string to the top of the card if you want to hang it up