



# Autumn Activities: Waxed Leaves



The colours of Autumn are akin to those of fires and sunsets – take some home with you!

## How to

- Gather many varieties of Autumn leaves, press and dry them in books or a flower press. The leaves take a few days to dry. Either prepare this part in advance, or see the gathering of the leaves as a separate activity.
- Light a fire. Melt beeswax in a pan over the fire.
- Take the pan off the fire and dip the leaves. To do so safely, hold the leaf stem and dip. Avoid immersing the fingers!
- Take the leaf out of the wax, hold above the pan and immediately shake downwards to remove extra wax before it dries. Avoid shaking side to side as droplets of wax can go over clothing.
- Blow the leaves gently to complete the drying.
- The wax coating will help to preserve the leaves. They can be used for all sorts of crafts, and are especially lovely when threaded.

## Invisible Learning

- Seasonal awareness
- Brain pattern recognition of leaf shapes
- Seeing the beauty in nature
- Fire making
- Using natural resources
- Environmental art

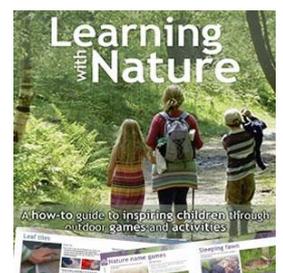
## Resources

- Pressed Autumn leaves
- Saucepan
- Wax (beeswax recommended)
- Needle and thread

## Variations

- Link the activity with all sorts of leaf games and simple leaf fun such as making big leaf piles and jumping in them, or trying to catch leaves falling in the breeze.
- Make mobiles with waxed leaves and other Autumnal natural objects.
- Make Autumn leaf bunting.

*Activity ideas taken from 'Learning with Nature', by Marina Robb (Director of Circle of Life Rediscovery), Victoria Mew and Anna Richardson.*



Circle of Life Rediscovery runs forest school and residential camps throughout schools in East Sussex and provides adult training, activity days, and outdoor learning experiences.

