

# Fall Unit

## Fall Books

Autumn: An Alphabet Acrostic - Steven Schnur

Autumn Leaves - Ken Robbins

Corn is Maize - Alike

Fall (The Four Seasons) - Maria Rius

Fall Leaves-Grace Maccarone

Fall Leaves Fall-Zoe Hall

Fletcher and the Falling Leaves - Julia Rawlinson

How Do Apples Grow? - Betsy Maestro

How Leaves Change-Sylvia A. Johnson

It's Fall (Celebrate the Season) - Linda Glaser

Johnny Appleseed - Reeve Lindbergh

Leaf Man-Lois Ehlert

Leaves! Leaves! Leaves! - Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

Look what I Did with a Leaf - Morteza E. Sohi

Mouse's First Fall - Lauren Thompson

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf - Lois Ehlert

The Autumn Equinox - Ellen Jackson

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf-Leo Buscaglia

The Leaf Men and the Brave Good Bugs-William Joyce

Why Do Leaves Change Color - Betsy Maestro

## Poems and Songs

### **THE LEAVES ARE FALLING DOWN** (Tune: "The Farmer in the Dell")

Give each child a colored leaf to wear around their necks so they can be picked during the game when their color is sung.

The leaves are falling down  
The leaves are falling down  
Red, yellow, green and brown  
The leaves are falling down

The green leaf takes the brown (continue with orange, red, yellow etc.)  
The green leaf takes the brown,  
Red, yellow, green, and brown  
The leaves are falling down.

### **RING AROUND THE LEAVES** (Tune: Ring Around the Rosie)

Ring around the pile, autumn makes us smile,  
leaves, leaves, they all fall down.

### **FALLING LEAVES**

All the leaves are falling down (flutter fingers downward)  
Orange, green, red, and brown. (flutter fingers)  
If you listen, you'll hear them say, (cup hands around ears)  
"Wintertime is on it's way." (whispering)

### **RAIN OF LEAVES by Aileen Fisher**

It's raining big,  
It's raining small,  
It's raining autumn leaves  
In fall.

It's raining gold  
And red and brown  
As autumn leafves  
Come raining down.

It's raining everywhere  
I look.  
It's raining bookmarks  
On my books

## **LEAVES**

Like a leaf and a feather  
In the windy weather  
We will whirl and twirl about  
And then sink down together

### **TEN LITTLE LEAVES** (tune: "Ten Little Indians")

One little, two little, three little leaves,  
Four little, five little, six little leaves,  
Seven little, eight little, nine little leaves,

### **TEN LITTLE LEAVES FELL DOWN.**

Rake one up and that leaves nine,  
Rake one up and that leaves nine,  
Rake one up and that leaves nine,  
Nine leaves on the ground.

Rake one up and that leaves eight....  
Rake on up and that leaves seven....

Rake the last one up and then there are none,  
Rake the last one up and then there are none,  
Rake the last one up and then there are none,  
No leaves on the ground.

### **THE LEAVES ON THE TREES** (tune: "The Wheels on the Bus")

The leaves on the trees are changing color,  
Changing color, changing color,  
The leaves on the trees are changing color,  
All around the town.

The wind makes the leaves say "Swish, swish, swish,"  
"Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish,"  
The wind makes the leaves say "Swish, swish, swish,"  
All around the town.

Then the leaves come tumbling down,  
Tumbling down, tumbling down,  
Then the leaves come tumbling down,  
All around the town.

The leaves on the ground make crackling sounds,  
Crackling sounds, crackling sounds,  
The leaves on the ground make crackling sounds,  
All around the town.

We'll rake them up into a pile,  
Into a pile, into a pile,  
We'll rake them up into a pile,  
All around the town.

## **Art Projects**

### **Painted Leaves**

Cut paper into large leaf shapes use dropper to drop fall colored tempera onto paper. Fold paper in half and rub the closed paper. Open to see the unique design.

### **Fall Wreath**

Take the children on a nature walk and give each child a bag to collect leaves, acorns, pine cones, etc.

Cut the center out of a paper plate for each child. Have them paint their wreath brown. While their craft dries, take them on a nature walk. Provide each child with a paper bag to collect leaves, acorns, pine cones, etc. When the plates are dry give the children glue and let them decorate the wreath with their fall items. Display in the classroom or send home as door decorations.

### **Leaf Place Mats**

Have the children collect leaves from home and bring to school. You may also go on a nature walk to collect them or provide them. Lay out an 8x10 sheet of clear contact paper for each child sticky side up. Have them place their leaves on the contact paper. Cover the paper with a matching sheet of contact paper and seal closed. Use a place mat for snack time for the month.

### **Magic leaf Table**

Tape fall leaves to a table top. Cover the table with a large sheet of butcher paper. Place crayons with the paper removed at the center and encourage children to rub the crayons on the paper to find the magic leaves. You can also let them place their own piece of construction paper over the leaves, do multiple rubbings, and then laminate their paper as a placemat.

## **Leaf Book**

Fold multiple pieces of construction in half to form a book. Let the children place different leaves on each page as a scrapbook.

## **Hand tree**

Paint one arm and hand brown for each child. Have them stamp the painted arm and hand onto a piece of paper. Once dry, let them decorate with fall leaves and small pine cones. If you don't want to paint the children's arms, you can trace the arm and hand on brown paper and cut out.

## **Leaf Prints**

Pieces of aluminum foil, leaves, glue, construction paper Set out pieces of aluminum foil and a variety of fall leaves. Let each child select a leaf, place it under a piece of foil, and gently press and rub the foil with his or her hand to get a leaf print. Then have the children glue their leaf prints to the construction paper

## **Leaf Painting**

Newspaper, leaves, tempera paint (red, orange, yellow), paintbrushes, black construction paper. Have the children select one or two leaves and place them on a piece of newspaper. Let them paint their leaves red, yellow and orange. Then help each child place a sheet of black construction paper over the painted leaves and gently press down to make a print. You can keep doing this until you put as many leaves on the black paper as the child wants to fill up the page. The kids really enjoy doing this one and so does the teacher. I always make one for myself.

## **Chalk leaves**

Use brown construction paper and red, yellow and orange pieces of chalk. Have the children place the leaves under the construction paper and rub lightly with a piece of colored chalk.

## **Fall impressions**

Cornstarch, baking soda, water, saucepan, waxed paper, nature objects such as leaves, twigs and flowers: In a saucepan, mix together 1 cup cornstarch, 2 cups baking soda, and 1 1/4 cups water. Cook over medium heat until the mixture thickens. Cool, then flatten mixture between sheets of waxed paper. Let the children lay leaves, twigs, flowers or other nature objects on top of the cornstarch mixture and press them down firmly. Then have them remove the objects to see the detailed impressions they made.

## **Fall Window Scene**

Paint a fall scene on your window. Use the following recipe and the paint is easily removed. Give each child a window to decorate. Window Paint: 2 Tbsp powdered tempera paint, 1 Tbsp warm water, 1 tsp Joy dish washing liquid Measure powdered paint into a container. Mix in water thoroughly to achieve a smooth paste. Add JOY, mixing completely, but gently, to avoid making paint too sudsy. Dries on windows in 5 - 10 minutes. Washes off easily with a solution of water and vinegar.

## **Leaf necklace**

Gather 10-12 leaves. Staple to a piece of string to create a necklace.

Let the children rake and pile leaves.

## **Nature Walk Bracelet**

Wrap a piece of masking tape (sticky side out) around each child's wrist. Go on a nature walk and have children collect one leaf from each of several trees, sticking it on their leaf bracelet. When the class returns, sit in circle. Teacher holds up each leaf shape in turn and lets children identify similar leaf on their bracelets. Let children wear their bracelets home and check the types of leaves in their yards.

## **Playdough Leaf Prints**

Use a rolling pin to flatten clay or a drying type dough. Lay a leaf on the clay & roll over it. Remove the leaf & let the clay dry. Paint the clay with fall colors of tempera.

## **Dry leaf art**

Cut a fairly large leaf shape from construction paper for each child. Have the children brush glue on their leaf shapes. Then let them crinkle dry leaves and scatter the pieces all over the glue.

## **Welcome Wreath**

Put toilet paper rolls, paint and brushes on table. When each child comes to the table; let him paint a roll. When child is finished, stand roll up on end to dry completely. When dry, string rolls on piece of yarn and tie.

## **Fall Aprons**

Purchase a white cotton carpenter's apron for each child (art fabric paints. Collect a variety of leaves. Look for leaves that are still pliable. Tape the stem to a scrap piece of paper. Let the child brush each leaf completely with fabric paint that has been thinned slightly. Untape the leaf and place carefully, paint side down, on apron. Cover with

paper towel. Place old phone book on top and let children count to 5. Repeat with several leaves. Write child's name on apron. Use for Nature walk to collect acorns, leaves, etc.

### **Leaf Reliefs**

Lay leaves on white paper and spray liquid tempera paints around the leaves. After spraying, you can lift the leaves and see the shape that was left.

## **Science and Math**

### **Sensory: "Fall Feely Box" or bag**

Place leaves, acorns, pine cones, nuts, apples, and other things you have discussed. You'll need a box with a hole big enough for their hand or a bag with a drawstring. Let the children take turns during circle time or in a center to feel the object and guess what it is.

Collect green leaves and place them on a tray to dry.... over time they turn brown without chlorophyll the leaf loses his green color.

### **Glycerin Leaves**

Place a small branch with fall leaves on several layers of newspapers. With a hammer tap the end of the stem until it is slightly crushed, Place branch in a jar with one part glycerine to two parts water. Keep for 2 weeks. Leaves will be thicker to touch, colors will have changed & they will not disintegrate or fade.

### **Sun bleached leaves**

Lay leaves on a piece of dark colored construction. Leave out in the sun for a few hours.

### **Water Leaf Prints**

(outside activity) Provide paintbrushes and small buckets of water. The children paint fall leaves with water, then press them on the cement. Observe the pattern the print makes. Point out and discuss the vein in the leaf. This can be done indoors by using tempera paint instead of the water. The children paint the leaves and then press them on white construction paper.

### **Leaf Collecting and Sorting**

Take children outside to collect as many leaves as they can find. Go back to class and have children take turns putting the leaves into groups of small, medium and large leaves.

## **Leaf match**

Find two of a variety of leaves for a matching game. Glue one leaf of each set onto a inside of a file folder. Laminate the folder once completed. Also the laminate the matches. After cutting out the matches, place them in a ziploc bag and staple bag to folder for storage.

**Why Do Leaves Change Color** <http://www.sciencemadesimple.com/leaves.html>

**Why do Leaves Change Color** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNnWXkfW8A8>

**Dot to Dot Leaf Activity** [http://www.abcteach.com/free/d/dot\\_leaf\\_to10.pdf](http://www.abcteach.com/free/d/dot_leaf_to10.pdf)

## **Additional Activities**

### **Leaf mobile**

Turn your entire ceiling into a leaf mobile by attaching leaves to fishing line and hanging them from the ceiling.

### **Falling leaves**

Use a sheet or parachute and put lots of leaves on it. Let the children use it to toss the leaves.

### **Who Stole the Nut from the Hollow Tree (Play Like "Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar")**

#### **Squirrel and Nut**

One child is chosen to be "it" is given a nut to hold. The other children form a circle, sitting on the floor. They extend one hand & close their eyes. "It" tiptoes around the inside of the circle & puts the nut into one of the outstretched hands. The one who receives it jumps up & chases after the other until he catches "it". He/she then becomes "it" & the games proceeds as before. The children open their eyes as the chase begins.

Print the Fall Alphabet available at [kidsparkz.com](http://www.kidsparkz.com) to make a fall book

[http://www.kidsparkz.com/fall\\_letters\\_literacy.html](http://www.kidsparkz.com/fall_letters_literacy.html)

What happens to leaves after they fall off the tree?



Use the sheet above to have the children track their observations as they learn why leaves change colors during the fall.

Explain that all plants need food to grow. Plants make a special kind of sugar for food using sunlight and a chemical inside them called chlorophyll that turns them green. We know when plants are getting enough food to eat because they are bright green and look healthy. During the spring and summer when there is lots of sunlight, plants make a lot of food and are a bright green color.

In the fall, there is not as much sunlight and plants cannot make as much food. The trees start to get ready to go to sleep for the winter just like bears go into hibernation. During the spring and summer they have made enough food for them to survive through the winter. Because they aren't making as much food, the leaves on the trees don't make the bright green color so they start to show all of the other colors that they have inside like, red, oranges, yellow, and brown.

Gather fresh leaves from the trees. Be sure to tell the children that once the leaves are picked, they can no longer make food. Spread the picked leaves out on a table where the children can easily take turns observing. Invite the children to look at the leaves and find a crayon that matches the color that the leaves are when they are first picked. Have preschoolers color the first leaf template to match the leaves.

Leave the leaves out for an entire week and each day have preschoolers visit the science center and look for any changes in the leaves. Have preschoolers color one leaf on their handout each day to match the color of the leaves.

At the end of the week, have preschoolers look at the leaves. The leaves may be wrinkled and dry. The leaves may have changed colors and look brown instead of green. Ask the preschoolers why they think the leaves look different than they did when they were on the tree. Tell the preschoolers that the leaves could not make any food so they started to change colors. The leaves weren't getting any water so they started to dry up.