



Texture Rubbing Plates

This project is designed for all ages, but young children may need assistance from an adult.

Texture describes how the surface of something feels. Visual texture is something you see *with your eyes* rather than feel *with your fingers*. As you look at the different objects around you, such as the leaves on a tree or the buttons on your shirt, you may notice that each surface is unique. How could these *touchable* textures be used to add *visual* texture to your own art? One way to explore texture is by creating your own set of rubbing plates.

Materials Used in the Studio

- Mat board or cardboard (about 6" x 8")
- Tacky glue
- Clean, thin found objects from around your home or nature such as old puzzle pieces, keys, pebbles, flowers, or bark*
- Oil pastels or crayons with wrappers removed
- Paper- experiment with different thicknesses, colors, or sizes

*Remember to keep small objects that could pose a choking hazard away from small children.



Arrange your chosen found objects onto the rubbing plate and glue the found materials in place with tacky glue. Set your rubbing plate aside until the glue is completely dry, at least two hours. While it dries, collect a variety of papers and crayons.



Position a piece of paper over your texture rubbing plate.

Hold the paper down with one hand as you rub the side of a pastel or crayon across the surface of the paper with the other hand until the texture below appears on the paper.



Explore

What happens when you rotate or reposition your paper on the rubbing plate?

Try using more than one color in your rubbing. What happens to the colors?

Bring some paper and a crayon on a walk around your neighborhood or on your next trip. Keep your eyes open for interesting surfaces to rub. How many texture rubbings can you collect?



What more can you make?

You might want to organize your rubbings in a journal and note the date and location of each texture you collect. You could also use some of your rubbings in a collage.