

# Autumn Leaf Forest

Skills: Watercolor techniques, printmaking, color mixing

## PROCESS:

Step 1. Using squeezed out sponges, have students dampen their paper. (Students enjoy using French pop-up sponges that expand when wet.)

Step 2: Have students use watercolors to paint half their paper blue and the other half green for the ground and sky. Encourage them to use different blues and greens or try more colorful sunsets/weather.

Step 2. While the background dries, have students collect leaves. Leaf prints transfer better on drier surfaces.

Step 3. Using acrylic paint, create vertical brown lines for tree trunks. Add branches and twigs.

Step 4. Using acrylic paint, paint the back of a leaf with fall colors (the back typically has a better texture for prints).

Step 5. Place painted leaf paint-side-down on tree trunk. Cover leaf with scrap paper and use hands to press leaf so that paint transfers.

Step 6. Repeat for each tree. Encourage students to overlap prints and use many different kinds of leaves.

Step 7. Students are then allowed to paint or draw in animals, birds, acorns, and other detail elements.

