



Activity: Plant Pounding

Experiment with capturing pigments from different plant parts to create botanical art! Chlorophyll is the green pigment we are most familiar with in plants. But flowers have different pigments in them that give them their beautiful colors.

Materials

- ▶ Hammer or stone for pounding
- ▶ Cotton fabric or water color paper (something a little absorbent)
- ▶ Assorted fresh plants and flowers
- ▶ Wax paper or plastic bag
- ▶ Iron (optional)

Instructions

1. Find a space to work that can handle being hammered and banged on.
2. Select plant parts of different colors and shapes and arrange them on your fabric.
3. Cover with plastic, wax paper, or just plain paper.
4. Hammer over a plant part. Move your hammer so you hit a little each time to squish the entire part.
5. Continue hammering until you get them all.
6. Peek occasionally to make sure you are getting the color transferred.
7. You can always add more plants as you go and keep pounding (though your arm may get tired first!).
8. Continue experimenting with different plants, trying stems, leaves and flowers. Some parts might be too watery or dry and won't transfer the pigment as well as others. Find the things you like the best.
9. Ironing can help set the colors. Ask an adult for help.