Pearl at Home

This art project is designed for family fun, for suggested ages of 8 and up to be completed at home with easily-accessible art materials.

FALL PASTEL LEAVES

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MATERIALS

• Construction paper or cardstock
  Any color, but black is best for getting the pastel colors to appear bright

• Cardstock for the stencil
  Regular paper will work, but cardstock will be easier for younger artists

• Stencil patterns
  Draw your own or print one of the provided templates

• Painter’s tape

• Soft pastels

• Damp paper towels

• Optional: Cotton swabs

DIRECTIONS

1 Prepare the stencils:

Select and print a leaf shape (provided at end of packet) or draw your own on cardstock. You can also use regular copy paper, though the heavier cardstock will make a sturdier stencil. Make sure your leaf shape is at least 3-5 inches across.

Cut out your leaf and set it aside to use as a stencil.
2 **Tape the stencil to the paper:**

Add a rolled piece of painter’s tape to the back of your stencil.

Stick the stencil down where you would like the leaf to be on the dark paper.

3 **Color a border:**

Choose the pastel colors you’d like to use. We used fall colors in our example.

While holding the stencil down with one hand, color around the edge of the leaf on the dark paper to make a border about 1/3 to 1/2 inch thick; change colors every inch or two.

Be careful not to roll, fold or crumple the edges of the stencil as you work.
4 Blend the colors:

With the stencil still on, use your finger tip to rub, smear, and blend the pastel border. Start by rubbing from the stencil edge our toward the edge of the dark paper. If you prefer not to use your finger, you can use a cotton swab.

Again, be careful not to roll, fold or crumple the edges of the stencil as you work.

5 Add more pastel:

Before you take the stencil off, decide if you have enough color. If you’d like more color, use the pastel in a slightly different way:

• Turn your pastel on its side.
• Lay the pastel on the stencil near the edge.
• Rub the pastel stencil onto the dark paper in the same direction of the smears you already have from the first technique.

TIP: Use the same colors you did in the first application; they can overlap.
6 Remove the stencil:

Pastels usually leave unwanted dust on the paper. Before taking the stencil off, take your artwork to a trash can and tilt it so the extra dust falls in the can. Be careful to **not** blow the dust off, so you don’t breathe it in!

If you’re satisfied with the amount of color on your paper, go ahead and carefully remove the stencil. If you have any stray pastel under the stencil, use a slightly damp cotton swab to lift off the dust.

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**Suggestion:**

You can also use the paper left from cutting out your leaf as a stencil:

- Tape the paper together again where needed.
- Put rolled pieces of tape on the back of the paper in several places, then stick it onto the darker paper.
- Use pastel to outline the edge of the stencil, then smudge the pastel from the stencil **inward**, onto the dark paper.
- Take care with the edges of the paper. The bigger stencils will work better for this suggestion.