



Let's Explore the Ginkgo Tree!

Ginkgo tree
Sapling Activities
Tree location

Try this...

The Ginkgo tree is one of the oldest trees. Scientists discovered the trees existence by finding the leaves of the Ginkgo tree in fossils dating back to time of the dinosaurs. Today you can create your own leaf fossil.

- Look all around the base of the tree for a fallen Ginkgo leaf. If there are no leaves on the ground you can gently pick one from the branches.
- With the help of an adult, mix the Plaster Paris and water in the plastic container you have brought with you. Make sure to read all the directions on the Plaster Paris box for the correct measurements of water and plaster. Let the plaster sit for the appropriate time.
- Gently place the leaf into the plaster. Make sure to gently rub all around the leaf's edges to make a good impression.
- After you have rubbed the leaf, peel the leaf from the plaster. Now you have a Ginkgo leaf fossil!
- Use the tip of a pencil or your finger to label the impression "Ginkgo leaf". Let the fossil dry. Now you can take the fossil home and tell the story of how the Ginkgo tree was discovered.

Do you want to learn more about leaves?

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf by Leo Buscaglia is a great book that parents can read to their children before, after, or while waiting for the plaster to dry where they can learn more about leaves while Freddie experiences the changing seasons.

Materials:

Plaster Paris
Small plastic container or any shallow container
Spoon for mixing
Water
Measuring cup
The Fall of Freddie the Leaf by: Leo Buscaglia

