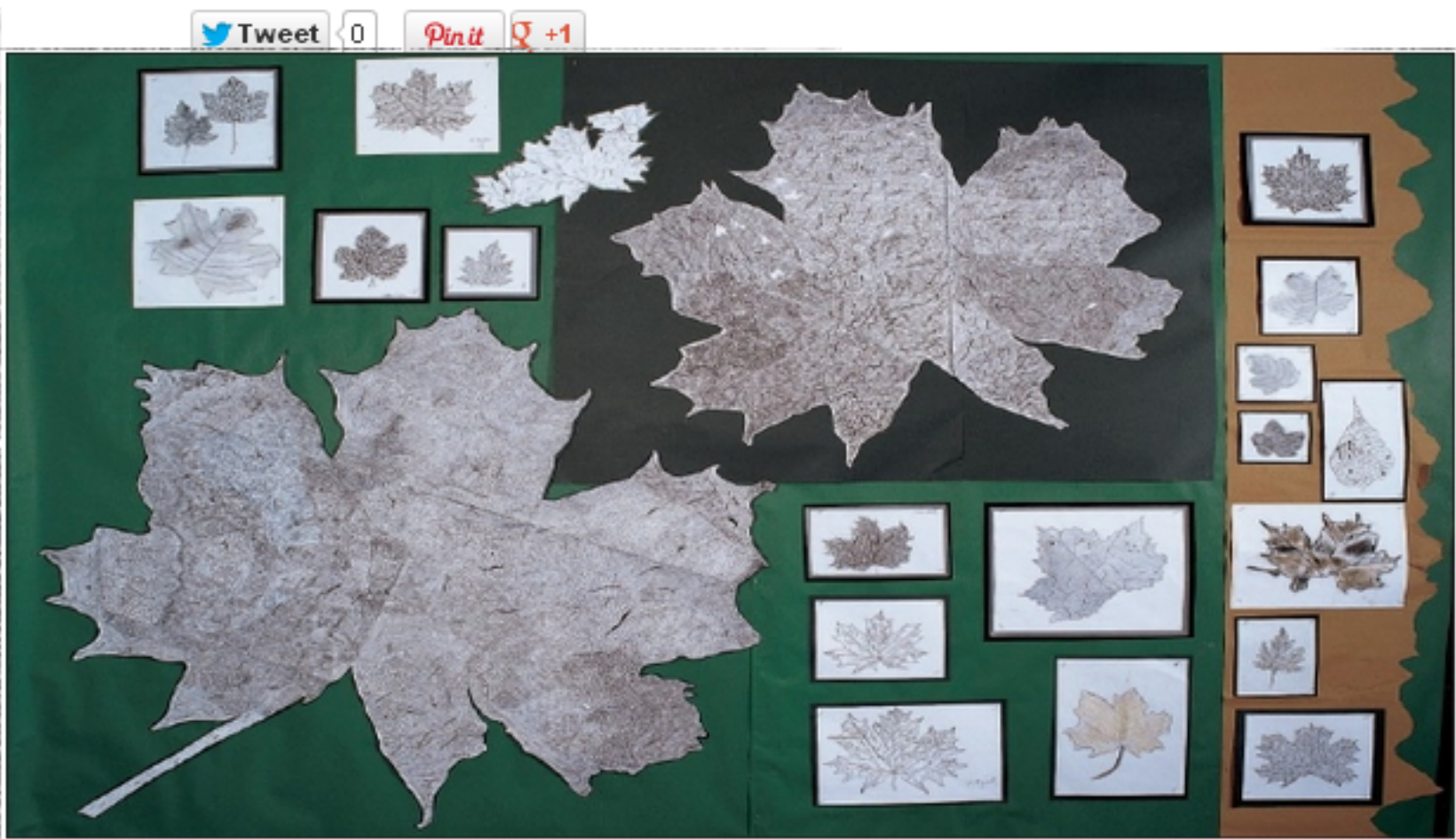


Crafty Ideas: **Sizing Up Leaves**



A display of giant leaves decorated with patterns that children have observed through the microscope

Playing with our sense of scale can make us look at very ordinary objects like leaves, in a fresh way, appreciating the detail and intricacies of their patterns. This activity involves children making giant leaves decorated with patterns they've observed through the microscope.

**You will need:**

- An overhead projector
- Microscopes
- A collection of leaves
- Large sheets of paper
- Drawing pencils
- Fine-line black pens

**Use**

Use as part of themed work you are doing on trees and leaves, or to develop children's observation and drawing skills.

**Make**

- Pin a large piece of paper to a wall facing the overhead projector.
- Place the chosen leaf on the projector.
- Draw around the large image of the leaf that is projected onto the paper. Remove the paper from the wall and cut out the outline of the leaf.
- Now place the leaf under a microscope and observe the pattern.
- Try to draw the pattern on the surface of the sized-up leaf in fine-line pen. As the surface is large you could ask several children to work together to cover each leaf shape in pattern.
- You could also give each child a leaf to observe and then draw on a small piece of paper. Direct them to mimic the patterns of the veins with a fine-line black pen or charcoal.

**Display**

Mount the giant leaves on black paper to heighten the contrasts in the pattern. Surround them with mounted versions of the smaller individual images. You may also want to include a poem such as, *Falling Leaves* by Stanley Cook in the display

*Falling Leaves*  
The leaves in Autumn  
Swing on the boughs  
Pushed by the wind,  
Backwards and forwards  
Far above the ground.  
The wind blows hard  
And the leaves let go  
Their hold,  
Flying over the wood  
Like a flock of birds  
And brown as sparrows  
Flying above the house.  
The wind lets them fall  
Helter skelter  
Towards the ground or sets them spinning  
On a roundabout.  
You can watch them  
Coming down.  
They crowd together  
By walls at corners  
Or chase each other  
Up the road.  
Sometimes when you open  
The kitchen door  
A leaf blows in  
And lies exhausted  
On the floor.

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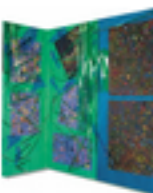
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