



Leaf Rubbings with Invasive Plants



<i>Objective</i>	To encourage participants to look closely at leaf characteristics of invasive plants.
<i>Audience</i>	1 or more participants; ages 4+
<i>Duration</i>	10 -20 minutes
<i>Materials</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper• Crayons• Invasive plant leaf samples• Clipboards or a table• <i>Optional</i> – ‘What Plant is This?’ activity, for leaf characteristics (<i>separate document</i>)
<i>Background</i>	This method of taking an impression of a leaf allows participants to create a take-home reference guide regardless of artistic ability. It also encourages deeper observation of leaf characteristics.
<i>Procedure</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hand out sheets of paper to all participants (along with clipboards if working in an area without a table).2. Hand out or have participants collect invasive plant leaf samples.3. Instruct participants to place their leaf sample on their clipboard or on the table and then place their paper on top of it.4. Instruct participants to rub the crayon gently over the paper above the leaf.5. Label the leaf rubbing with the name of the invasive plant.6. Also label any notable characteristics (leaf margins, veins, arrangements, etc.)7. If multiple species are available, have students take leaf rubbing of multiple species. Label each leaf individually to create a fun reference sheet! <p>Tip: Peel the wrapper off the crayon and use the side of the crayon for the rubbings!</p>
<i>Variation</i>	For older participants, shift the focus of this activity to be about creating a field guide and reinforcing the concept of ID characteristics. Use the leaf rubbings booklet and have participants take leaf rubbings of multiple plants, both locally evolved and invasive. Encourage them to label each page with the name of the species, different ID characteristics, and the impacts the different invasive plants can have.

Inspiration Sources – School and camp activities of our youth; activities redesigned for our purposes.