

LEAF CRITTER



The leaves are starting to fall off of the trees! As the days get colder and shorter, the area where the leaf meets the branch starts to form a layer of abscission cells. These abscission (or detachment) cells grow until they eventually cut off the leaf's supply of water. The cells get dry and weak until there are barely any cells holding the leaf onto the tree. A good breeze comes along and merely finishes the tree's process of getting rid of its leaves. These leaves make a great home for native box turtles, provide shelter for hibernating insects over the winter, and make great nesting material for birds. You can also make crafts out of them!

MAKE YOUR OWN LEAF CRITTERS

Materials: Leaves, paper, tape or glue

Directions:

1. Gather some leaves from outside. Look for interesting colors, shapes and patterns
2. Use the leaves as building blocks to create different animals, shapes, and structures.
3. You can glue or tape the leaves onto the paper if you'd like to keep your creations or use the same leaves to make many different things.