

## Texture in Nature Hunt

### Explore the Arboretum and investigate a variety of textures found in nature.

Young children use their sense of touch and developing language skills to describe what they feel with their fingers. When given descriptors, children expand their vocabularies and learn to differentiate among similar textures. Encourage children to touch freely and keep some hand-wipes available to clean up after gooey or sticky fun!

*Print copies of the double-sided worksheet for children to use during their visit.*

### Free Exploration

- Allow children to pick up natural materials from the ground or gently touch plant parts that are still attached without pulling them.
- Ask open-ended questions to get them interested in touching, smelling, and listening to how materials sound when interacted with.
- Make a collection of found materials to use as a game at the end.

### Guided Exploration

- Use the Texture in Nature Hunt sheet to introduce new texture vocabulary words. As children find examples, add these finds to the collection bag if possible.
- Ask questions like:
  - How is something **soft** different from something **smooth**?
  - Is something **shiny** also **waxy**?
  - How is **rough** different from **bumpy**?
  - Can you find something that is both **sharp** and **smooth**?

## Concluding Activities

- With eyes closed, reach into the collection bag and find items that match a given descriptor.
- With eyes closed, pull out an item from the collection bag and describe it using as many descriptors as possible.
- Can you draw the item without looking at it, just by the way it feels?
- Have a friend feel the same item without looking and also make a drawing. How do these two drawings compare?

## TEXTURES IN NATURE

Can you find examples of all these textures in nature?



Smooth



Fuzzy



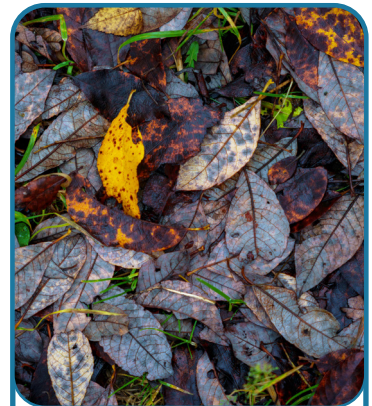
Rough



Bumpy



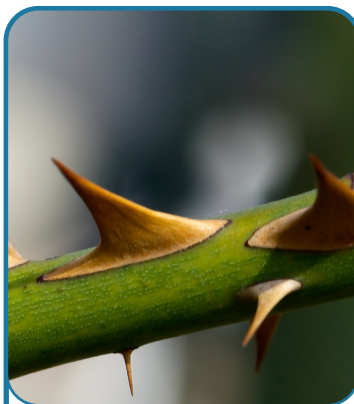
Prickly



Damp



Spongy



Sharp



Waxy

Draw some favorite nature objects and write a texture word to describe each one.

