

Leaf Confetti



Engage and Reflect

Watch *Virtual Vitamin Z - Discover More About Giraffes*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SthAykVR_Pl



Skills

- Fine motor skills
- Repurposing materials



NGSS Science and Engineering Practices

- From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
- Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Visual Arts

- Apply skills and knowledge to create in the arts.

Experience

- 30-60 minutes
- 1 or more people



Giraffes don't face any competition for the leaves high in the trees, so these tall animals spend all day browsing. The giraffes at the Detroit Zoo browse on their favorite leaves, including mulberries and honey locust. To celebrate these majestic animals, see how you can turn falling leaves into confetti that is colorful and clean-up free! Making confetti out of leaves helps keep all animals safe by eliminating the use of small pieces of plastic that could be swallowed and ingested,



Celebrating and Saving Wildlife

The giraffe habitat recently underwent a dramatic transformation, which expanded their outdoor yard. The renovation also saw the animals' indoor area expand to more than double the size of their previous space. It is now large enough for the entire herd to be together during the colder months. Windows and skylights were incorporated to provide more sunlight and fresh air when the animals are indoors, and a natural substrate was used for the flooring, which is good for the giraffes' feet and joints.



Take Action

Each fall, millions of leaves are placed in plastic bags and thrown away into landfills where they breakdown slowly, releasing methane gas into the air and contributing to climate change. Breaking down leaves into small pieces and leaving them on lawns over winter, saves time, adds nutrients into the soil and decreases the amount of methane released.

Leaf Confetti

Tools

Leaves of various shades

Hole puncher



1 or more people

Directions

- Collect leaves of different colors, dried out leaves work best, but fresh leaves can also be used.
- Using a hole puncher, punch out confetti.
- Use different shaped hole punchers for more variety or use scissors to create small, different shaped pieces of confetti.
- Use in place of paper or plastic confetti to celebrate birthdays, graduations and more.

Notes - Plastic confetti pieces do not breakdown, they become small pieces of plastic, microplastics, that wash away into water sources like lakes, rivers and streams. These pieces are often ingested by animals, causing harm to birds, fish and more.