

BLOOM'S DAY

Green Gallery Flower Prints

Keep a favorite blossom or graceful fern forever by making an imprint of it using an easy technique: You gently pound the petals or leaves to make a lasting impression on fabric or paper. The results are beautiful enough to frame!

WHAT YOU NEED

fabric or paper (printed or watercolor paper looks pretty too)
scissors
leaves
flowers (preferably ones with just one layer of petals, like daisies)
cellophane tape
wooden board
paper towels
rubber mallet or hammer
colored construction paper
picture frames with mats



HOW TO MAKE

- 1 When making a print to frame, choose paper or fabric that's slightly smaller than the opening of your mat, leaving room for a colorful 1- to 2-in. border.
- 2 Cut the stems off the flowers you've chosen.
- 3 Lay a leaf or flower facedown on the fabric or paper. Hold it in place with tape, if needed.
- 4 Put the wooden board on a hard surface. Lay the taped leaf or flower and fabric between 2 paper towels on top of the wooden board.
- 5 GROWN-UPS: Please help your kids with this step. Hold the paper towels in place and pound the paper towel with the rubber mallet or hammer. No need to rush: Take your time, don't pound too hard, and always make sure your fingers are out of the way of the rubber mallet or hammer.
- 6 Once you're done, carefully pull back the top towel and remove the tape and the leaf or flower.
- 7 Before framing your pounded leaf or flower impression, cut colorful construction paper to fit the opening of the frame. Glue the paper or fabric with the impression in the center of the construction paper, leaving a 1- to 2-in. border. Place inside the matted picture frame.