Beat-a-leaf Journal

This project combines your kids' most primal gathering instincts with another activity they love: banging rocks. Put the finished print on the cover of a blank notebook, and your kids will have a journal for recording their outdoor adventures.

MATERIALS
Green leaves
Wooden board
Small square of muslin
Thumbtacks
Flat, smooth, palm-size rock or hammer
Blank journal
Glue
Twine, ribbon, or colored paper

1. After selecting a leaf or two, lay them on the board (put a piece of paper on the board first if you don't want to stain it).
2. Place the piece of muslin on top, tacking down the fabric at the corners so it won't shift.
3. Using the rock or hammer, beat the fabric carefully but with consistent, even force.
4. Lift up the fabric, and the leaf will have left its image in green.
5. Glue the muslin square to the front cover of the blank journal. To cover the fabric's edges, glue on a border of twine, flat ribbon, or colored paper.