



STEM By The Book

Leaf Man Lois Ehlert

Experiences and Outcomes

Through creative play, I explore different materials and can share my reasoning for selecting materials for different purposes. **SCN 0-15a**

Through exploring properties and sources of materials, I can choose appropriate materials to solve practical challenges. **SCN 1-15a**

I have observed living things in the environment over time and am becoming aware of how they depend on each other. **SCN 0-01a**

I explore everyday materials in the creation of pictures/models/concepts. **TCH 0-10a**

I explore and discover different ways of representing ideas in imaginative ways. **TCH 0-11a**

Resources

- A3 piece of card
- Sheets of A3 paper
- A hole punch
- A twig or wooden skewer
- An elastic band/hairband/string



Activity – Make a Science Pocket Book

The book Leaf Man came from the authors love of collecting and pressing beautiful fallen leaves. In this activity you can make your own book to keep and display the leaves you find, along with any other treasures you discover when exploring outside.

To make the first pages of your book take your sheet of A3 paper and place it in front of you in a landscape orientation.

Fold the piece of paper in half – top corner to top corner, press along the fold to make a sharp central crease. Now unfold the paper and place it in front of you again.

From the bottom edge of the sheet fold a 10 cm section of the paper up, to lay flat against the main sheet. Press all the way along the bottom edge to give a neat crease. This will form the pocket of the book (you can make the pocket deeper by folding up a section the measures more than 10cm (Figure 1).

Now, keeping the pocket flap facing you fold the page back on itself, in half along the central fold line.

(Figure 2). This will form two pages with a pocket on either side. Make some additional pages for your book in the same way – try to fold as accurately as you can.

For the cover of the book choose a piece of A3 paper or card and trim it so that it will be slightly deeper than the finished book. Fold the cover in half and insert the A3 paper pages into the cover. Make sure the pockets are accessible when you open the cover of the book.

Check that the folded edges of the pocket pages are on the right-hand side as you look down on the book and that the open ends of the pockets are on the left-hand side, touching the central fold of the cover, forming the spine of the book. (Figure 3)



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure3

Now, using a hole punch, make holes through all the layers of your book, on the side of the book where the cover is folded (Figure 4).

From the back of the book, insert the elastic hairband, elastic band or string through the holes and then put the twig (or skewer) through the loops of the hairband (Figure 5) thus securing the pages inside the cover. Your book is now ready to decorate and fill (Figures 6 and 7).

We love filling our book with dried leaves or seeds, leaf or bark rubbings and pictures of plants, what else could you put in yours?



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

Leaf



What next?

You can watch Hayley making a science pocket book on [SSERC TV](#)



Collect fallen flowers when you are out and press them between the pages of a heavy book to add to your science book.

Make books for every season, see how the colours and the items you collect have changed, you could draw the same tree in different seasons then look back to see what the differences are.

Why not make your own recycled paper to add to your Science Pocket Book.

You can add flowers, leaves and seeds to make your own truly unique paper.

You can find full instructions on how to make your own paper in [SSERC Bulletin – issue 72](#)