

# LEAF PAINTBRUSHES

Such a simple and fun way to get an up-close look at the leaves on an evergreen tree (yes, they really are the leaves!).

Most conifers have needle-like leaves, such as fir, pine, spruce, and larch. Some, like cedar, cypress, and juniper trees, have scale-like leaves. These trees do not shed individual leaves but instead shed short branches that bear one or more years of growth.

Go ahead and carefully prune a few small branches or collect recently fallen branches from the forest floor. Use a rubber band to attach them to a stick. That's it! You've made yourself some paintbrushes. Experiment with them and find out which type of tree makes the best brush!

As you paint, pay attention to how the paint interacts with the needles. Does it seem like the paint isn't soaking in the way it would with a regular paintbrush? Why might that be?

Maybe even paint yourself an evergreen tree!

