

# Seaweed Printing



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Have you ever walked along the rocky shore or sandy beach and seen seaweed floating at the surface? Seaweeds can be dislodged from their holdfasts by waves, fish or even humans, and end up on shore! These washed up plants provide the opportunity for a fun, interesting, and creative challenge.

## Materials

- Paper/cardstock
- Newspaper
- Wax paper
- Cardboard
- A small paintbrush
- Weights (heavy books)
- A tray or baking sheet
- The ocean!



## Step One: Seaweed Collection

Head out to the rocky shore or sandy beach and search for some interesting looking seaweeds! Make sure to bring a waterproof container and collect different colors, types, and shapes for a more interesting crafting experience. Be careful not to bring any animals home and remember — do your best to leave no trace!, Be sure to check the collecting policy in the area first and take only as much seaweed as you need.

## Step Two: Preparation

Start with a flat work space and place several sheets of newspaper down to absorb excess water. This will be your drying area. Next, carefully cut the cardboard, newspaper, and wax paper into rectangles. These should be a little larger than the paper or cardstock you'll be using for the print.

# Seaweed Pressing, cont.

## Step Three: Pressing!

Fill your tray or baking sheet with an inch of water and place a sheet of cardstock or paper into the water. Yes, put your paper water! Add a few pieces of seaweed to your tray and gently spread them out with your paintbrush. Once you are happy with how your seaweed looks, slowly lift the paper out of the water, allowing the water to drain off without disrupting the seaweed. Place your wet paper with seaweed on the newspaper. Next, place a sheet of wax paper on top of the seaweed. Then, lay a piece of cardboard on top of the wax paper and put your weights (such as a few large books) on top of the cardboard. Now, wait for your seaweed to dry, being sure change the newspaper when it becomes soaked through. A fan can make the drying process a little quicker, or just wait a day or two for the seaweed to dry.



**Once the seaweed is dry, take the weights off and peel away the wax paper to reveal your work of art!**

