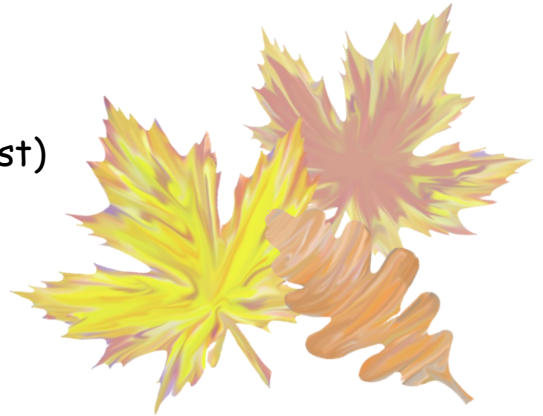


Autumn leaves Wall Cards

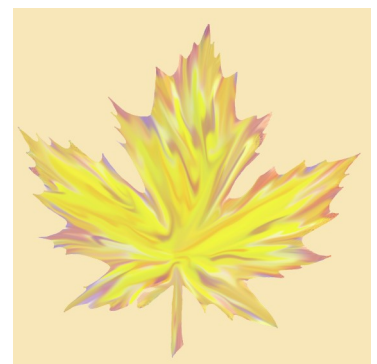
Materials:

- chalk in autumn colors (Prang Freart works best)
- 9x12 white drawing paper
- leaf stencils
- tissues
- newspaper or newsprint

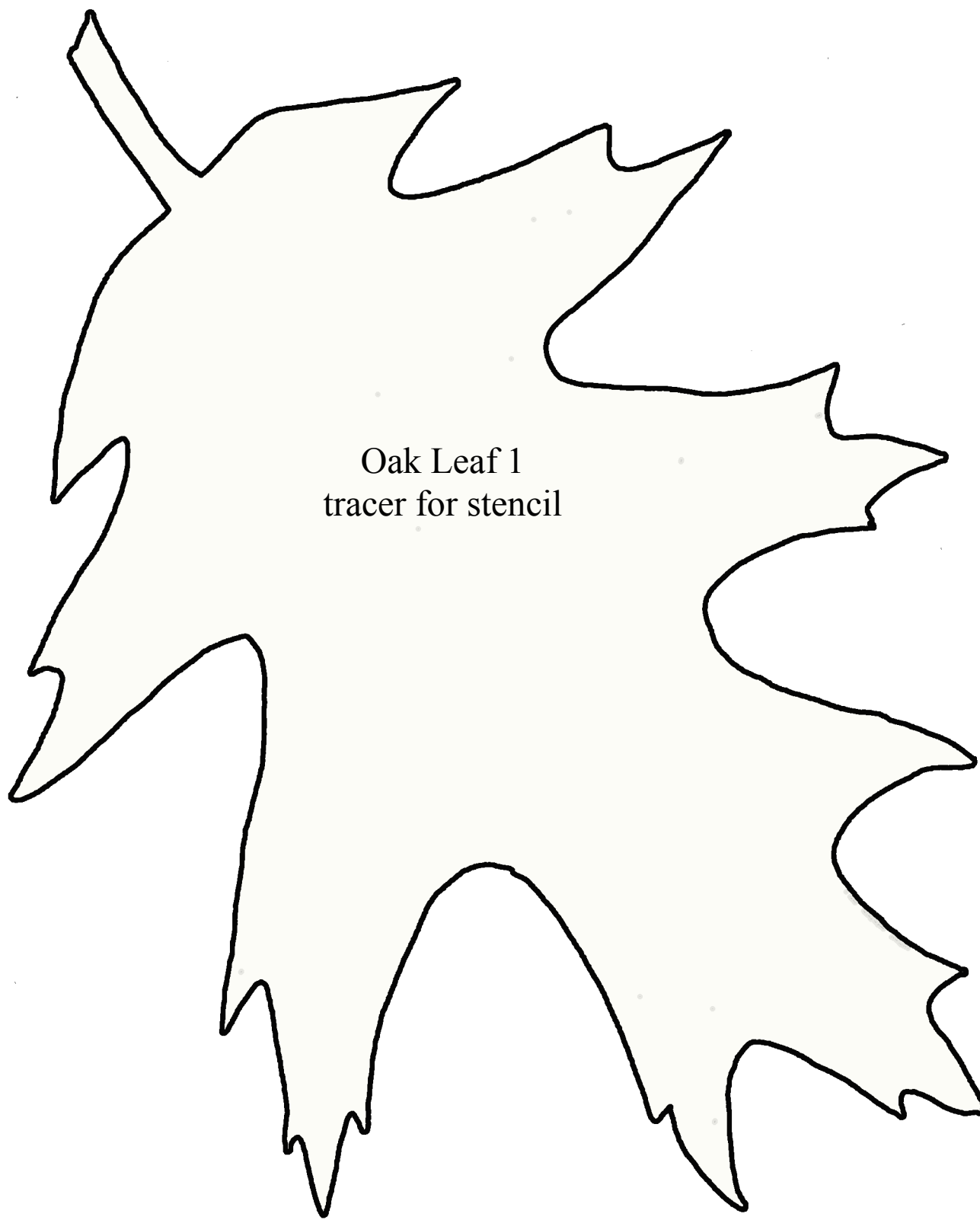


Directions:

1. Place a piece of newsprint or newspaper under the stencil.
2. Outline the leaf stencil darkly with several colors of chalk. Go over each color several times.
3. Place the stencil on top of a piece of white drawing paper.
4. Using a tissue, gently brush the chalk off the edge of the stencil onto the white paper, pulling the color onto the paper. Hold the stencil very still, and be careful not to brush too much or the colors will turn muddy.
5. Lift the stencil off the paper. You will have a beautiful fall leaf.
6. Clean up your mess.



You will need to make stencils out of these tracers. Cut out the tracer. Trace it onto half of an old manila file or piece of 9x12 tag board. Cut out the leaf without cutting a slit in the tag board. Keep the tracer—you can use it for lots of projects. Keep the stencils, too. That's what the kids will need for this project.



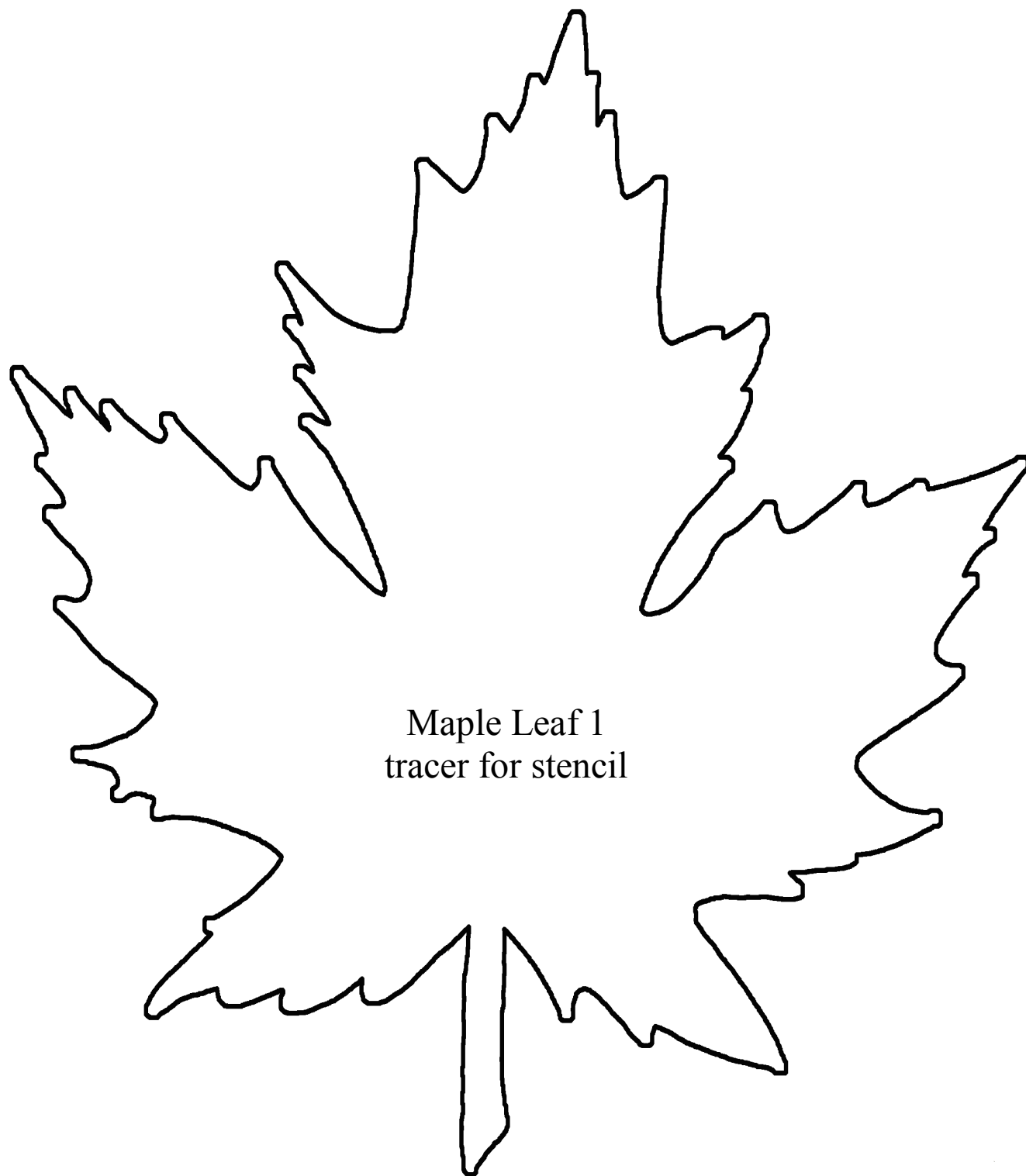
Oak Leaf 1
tracer for stencil

You will need to make stencils out of these tracers. Cut out the tracer. Trace it onto half of an old manila file or piece of 9x12 tag board. Cut out the leaf without cutting a slit in the tag board. Keep the tracer—you can use it for lots of projects. Keep the stencils, too. That's what the kids will need for this project.

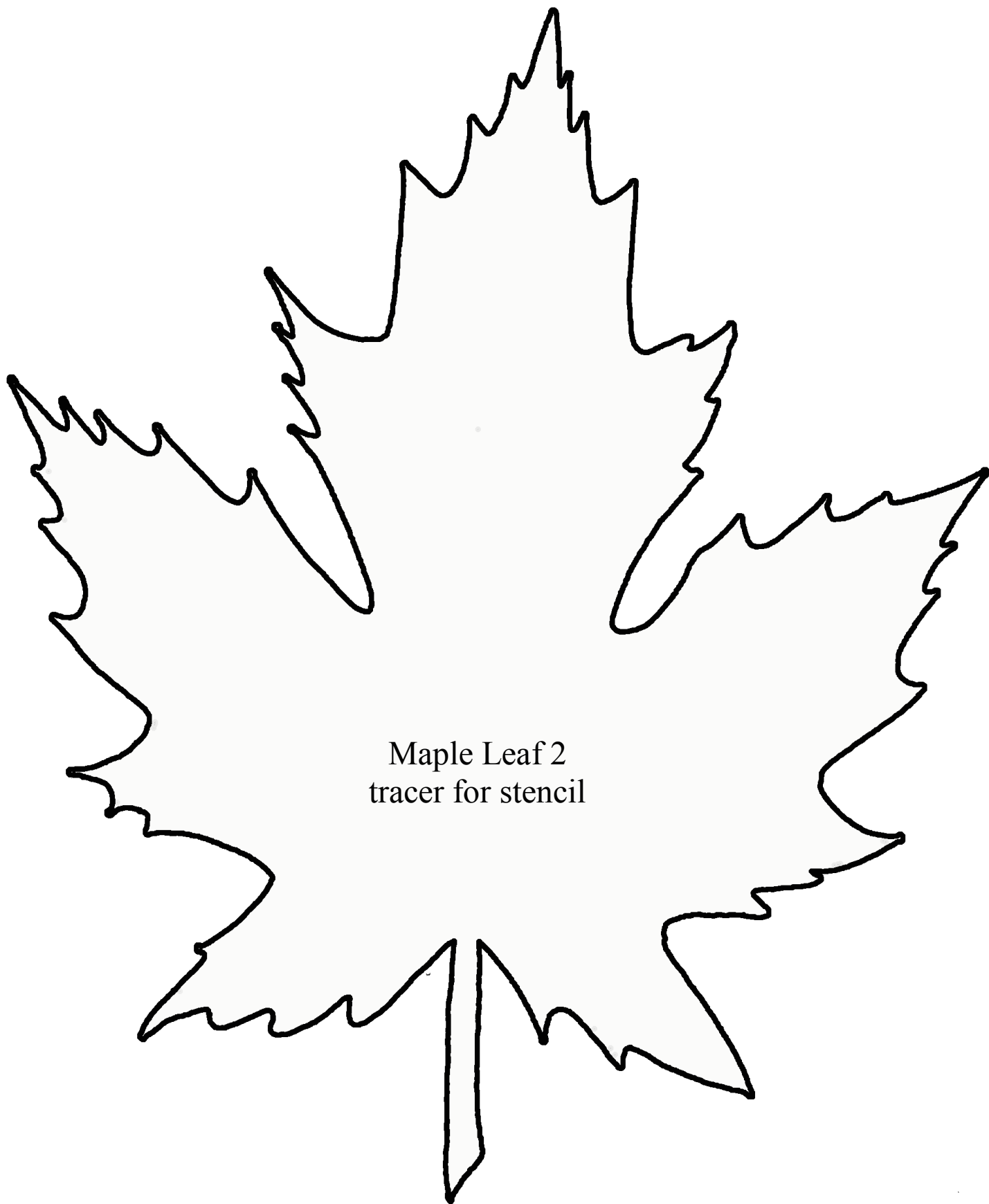


Oak Leaf 2
tracer for stencil

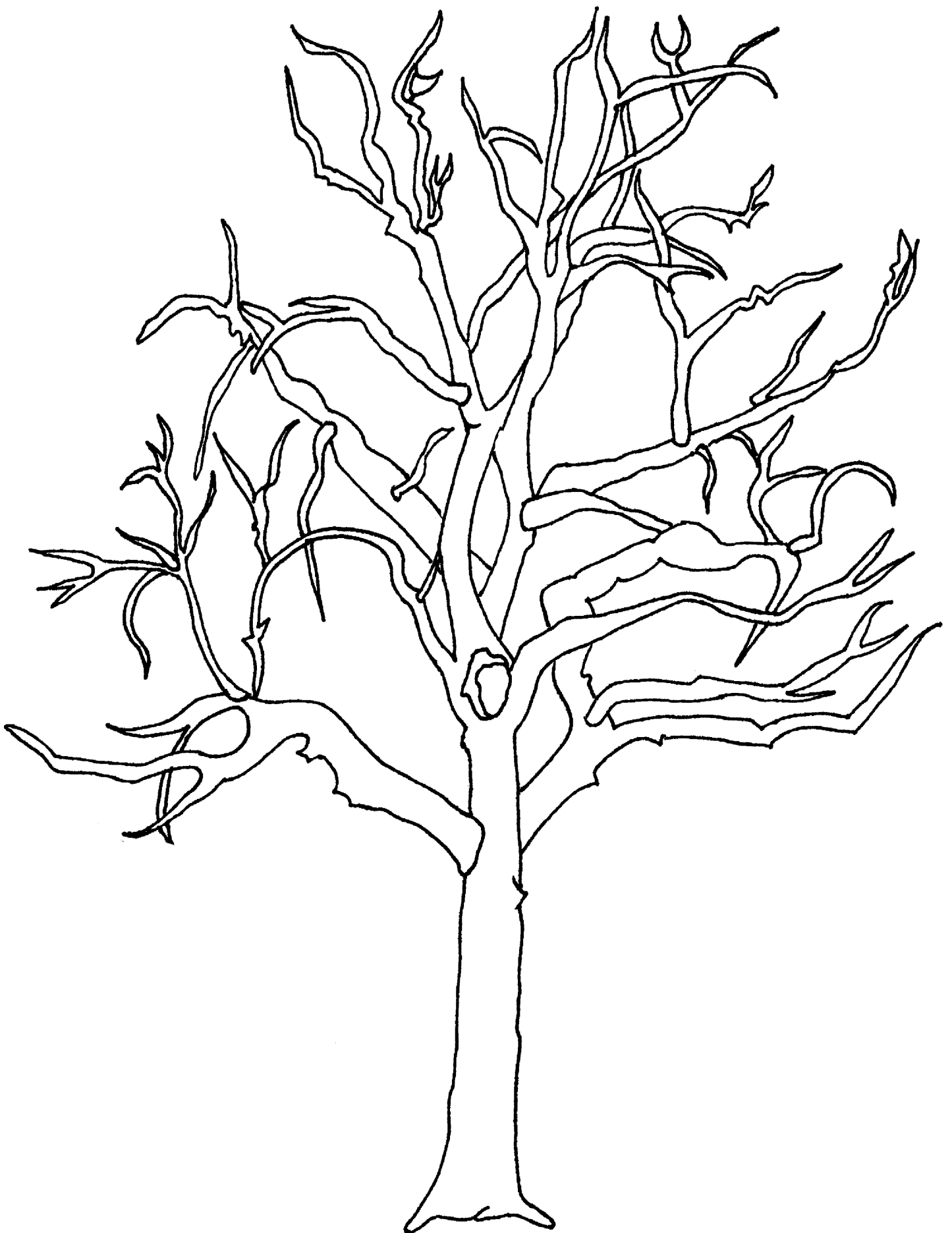
You will need to make stencils out of these tracers. Cut out the tracer. Trace it onto half of an old manila file or piece of 9x12 tag board. Cut out the leaf without cutting a slit in the tag board. Keep the tracer—you can use it for lots of projects. Keep the stencils, too. That's what the kids will need for this project.



You will need to make stencils out of these tracers. Cut out the tracer. Trace it onto half of an old manila file or piece of 9x12 tag board. Cut out the leaf without cutting a slit in the tag board. Keep the tracer—you can use it for lots of projects. Keep the stencils, too. That's what the kids will need for this project.

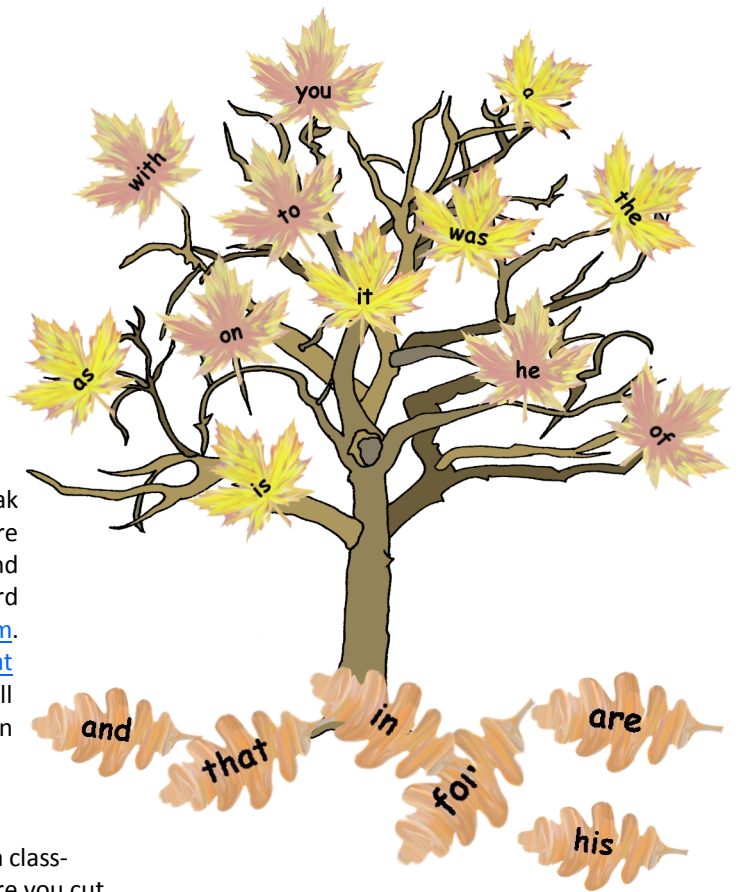


Maple Leaf 2
tracer for stencil



Autumn Leaf Wall Cards

Tips and Suggestions



[Prang Freart Chalk](#) works far better than regular chalk for this, and numerous other projects. The chalk is 1"x4" so you can break each piece in half. They are very bright, creamy, and create a texture you can't get any other way. (The leaves here are simulations and don't look near as good as the real thing.) The chalk can be very hard to find, but they are available (and at the best price) at [Amazon.com](#). You can also get the link online in the [Workroom at www.thematicteacher.com](#). Make a tree for your classroom wall and hang the leaves on the tree or just sprinkle them in an area on your wall.

To make the tree:

Project the tree image (page 6) and trace it onto butcher paper, or a classroom mural. It's best at 5-6 feet in height. Hang it on the wall before you cut it out, staple some newspapers under the bottom and overlap them on the floor, so that your students can paint it with tempera paints. Mix up several colors of brown paint in large, disposable cups. Start with plain brown, and then add a little white, yellow, or black in each cup to give you 4-5 different shades of brown. Let each child choose one color to paint one limb, starting from the top and working down. After it's dry, you can take it down, cut it out and staple it to your wall. Stick some pins on the branches of the tree and around the bottom to hang the wall cards on.

You can also make lovely classroom trees out of twisted brown butcher paper. Tear long strips of butcher paper and twist each one into a tight form. Twist several together to form the trunk, a couple together to form big limbs, and then use the rest as branches. Staple it all together on the wall. They are quick, easy and look great.

You can keep your tree up all year long and change the leaves with the seasons. You can hang monthly wall cards on them, no matter what the theme. I especially like having one in the reading area, but they work well just about anywhere.

Using Wall Cards

Use monthly wall cards to practice repetitive skills such as math facts and formulas, sight words, vocabulary, science and social studies facts, etc. Hang them on the wall or lay them out on the floor like a life-sized game board. To use this art project as flashcards for the wall, just write the word, fact, or formula that you want the children to rehearse in the center and then laminate, cut out, and punch a hole in the top so it can hang on a pin.

Go to [www.thematicteacher.com](#) and click on [Tips 'N Tricks](#) to get some ideas of games to play using these materials. Click on [Flashcards](#) under [Category Archives](#) to see all the titles.

Whatever you do with a flashcard you can do with wall cards. The children will be able to think up fun new games to play with them. You can use the cards whenever you need a quick 3-5 minute activity or as the children line up for something. It may also be used as a free time task for those who finish early, small group instruction, or small groups can work with classroom volunteers. It's a fun way to practice tedious drills and you might be surprised at how effective they are when children use them independently to help each other. Kids are GREAT teachers!