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Why Leaves Change Color In The Fall



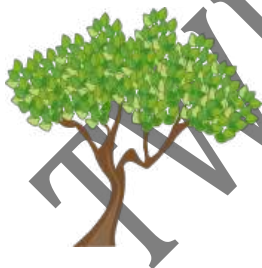
Not many things are better than jumping in a big pile of red, yellow, and orange leaves on a cool fall day. But how and why exactly do these leaves go from bright green and hanging on trees to a colorful mix all over the yard in just a few weeks?

Green Leaves

Ecobottle Sample



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Chlorophyll is not the only pigment in leaves. Some leaves also have other pigments in them such as red, yellow, or orange. When leaves are making and using lots of chlorophyll, its green color covers up the reds, yellows, oranges, and browns of the other chemicals making the leaves green.

Chlorophyll—a natural chemical in plants that creates sugar through photosynthesis and gives plants their green color.

Pigment—A substance that gives something color.

Photosynthesis—The process a plant uses to create sugar (food) from chlorophyll and sunlight.

Ecobottle Sample



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The chlorophyll in leaves needs light from the Sun to create the sugars that keep the leaves alive. When the leaves aren't getting as much sunlight during the fall, the chlorophyll slows down and eventually dies away.



With no more chlorophyll in the leaves, there is nothing to turn them green. Once the chlorophyll is gone, the other pigments that were always there can show their colors. The red, orange and yellow from these other chemicals become the main colors of the leaves.

Reading Comprehension Questions:

- 1) What is chlorophyll?
- 2) What is
- 3) Why does the weather become colder in the fall?
- 4) What
- 5) What
- 6) Why are the red, yellow and orange pigments stronger in leaves in the fall?

Extension Questions:

- 7) Why do
- 8) How would a particularly sunny, warm fall affect the colors of the leaves?
- 9) Using

Ecobottle Sample



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TWF READING

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