

Green Leaves

Hidden Colours

What you need!

- Approx. 10 green leaves (from the same plant)
- Glass jar
- Scissors
- 1/4 cup rubbing alcohol
- Spoon
- Tape
- Pen
- Strip of coffee filter
- Piece of white paper

Just about everyone who has lived through at least one autumn knows that leaves change from green to other colours in the fall. But where do those yellow, red and orange pigments come from, when for most of time, leaves are green?

What you do:

1. Cut the leaves into small pieces and place in a jar. Use only one type of leaf per experiment.



2. Cover the leaf bits with rubbing alcohol.
3. Stir and crush the leaf bits with the spoon.

CAUTION: rubbing alcohol is poisonous - DO NOT ingest or breathe!



4. Tape a long strip of the coffee filter paper to the middle of a pen.
5. Lay the pen across the mouth of the jar, with the coffee filter strip hanging down into the leaf/alcohol mixture.
6. Watch the liquid draw up into the paper.
7. When the liquid is no longer rising, remove the coffee filter paper and place it on a sheet of white paper to dry.



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