

Leaf Color Experiment

Simple and quick, this experiment teaches kids about color in leaves. Be sure to give this experiment a try!

Ages: 3 - 9

30 minutes - 1 hour

Adult Supervision

Leaves are full of chlorophyll, which works to convert the energy of the sun into food for the plant. Chlorophyll also makes leaves appear green. They have other colors in them as well, but as long as there's lots of chlorophyll, the green hides all the other colors. However, in the autumn in temperate climate zones, the chlorophyll in the leaves starts to break down. This allows other colors such as yellow and orange to make their appearance!

MATERIALS

- Different color leaves
- Bowl or pot
- Rubbing alcohol
- Test tubes
- Tongs

STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL

1

Step 1
Place four leaves in a pot of boiling water. Boil your leaves for 5 minutes. Make sure to have an adult supervise this step!



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2

Step 2

While you wait for your leaves to boil, fill up your test tubes (or tall glasses would work too) with rubbing alcohol. You'll need enough rubbing alcohol to submerge the leaves in.



3

Step 3

Once leaves have boiled for 5 minutes, use your tongs to pick up the leaves and quickly place them in the rubbing alcohol.



4

Step 4

Note the current color of the rubbing alcohol. Now wait about an hour and observe what happened to the leaves and alcohol. What do you see? Let your experiment sit overnight and come back to see if your alcohol color has turned darker. Can you guess what colors these leaves are?



Make Your Own Garden



SOURCE

<https://www.kiwico.com/diy/nature-adventure/plants-rocks/leaf-color-experiment>

KiwiCo was founded to nurture children's creativity and problem-solving skills through hands-on projects, making it easier for parents to provide enriching activities. The company simplifies the process of building, exploring, and creating together by designing fun and educational experiences that foster creative confidence. With a growing team of designers, experts, and kid testers, KiwiCo aims to equip children with the skills they need to face future challenges. Founder and CEO Sandra, an engineer and mother of three, created KiwiCo to inspire curiosity and exploration in families.