

Experiment - D

Colorful Fall Leaves

Activity with an Adult

This experiment can only be conducted in the Fall of the year just as the leaves are changing color.

A tree needs light to grow. As the amount of light (both quality and quantity) decreases with the fall days, the tree enters a dormant state. This state causes the leaves to die and fall off. For a short period of time each Fall, there is a beautiful show of color on hardwood trees.

Materials:

- 1 sheet of black construction paper
- Several paper clips
- 1 maple leaf (or from any hardwood tree)

Instructions:

1. Take the sheet of black construction paper and fold it in half.
2. Slide the leaf halfway into the folded piece of paper. The paper should now cover the front and back of $\frac{1}{2}$ the leaf.
3. Position paper clips all around the folded piece of paper securing the 2 sides together and holding the leaf in position.
4. Leave this for a few days
5. Remove the construction paper
6. Observe the changes in the leaf

What color is the part of the leaf that was covered? Can you explain what has happened?

