

## Fall Leaves Changing



In late September and early October, leaves stop producing chlorophyll, the pigment that makes leaves green and makes food for the tree. The change is triggered by decreasing daylight. This allows the other pigments such as carotenes and xanthophyll to show off their orange, yellow, and brown colors. The red colors you may see are from anthocyanins which are more dependent on weather. Red colors are stronger when there are warm, sunny days and cold, but not freezing, nights.

### Make your own Autumn Leaf

**Materials:** Markers, coffee filter, scissors, and water

**Directions:**

1. Draw a leaf shape on a coffee filter
2. Color the coffee filter with fun fall colors.
3. Cut out your leaf.
4. Spray your leaf with one squirt of water or dab a small amount of water on with a sponge. Don't use too much water or the colors will wash away. Make sure there is something underneath your leaf to absorb excess color and water.
5. Watch the colors blend!