

1. Read the passage. 2. Write facts you learned on the graphic organizer. 3. Write about what you learned.

WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR?

Autumn leaves can be beautiful. The green leaves of spring and summer suddenly become bright red, orange, and yellow. Why do the leaves change color? Why do the trees get new green leaves in the spring?

First, let's think about why leaves are green. Plants take in water from the ground through their roots. They also take in a gas from the air called carbon dioxide. Finally, they use sunlight to turn the water and gas into food. A chemical called *chlorophyll* helps to make the food, too. Chlorophyll is what makes the leaves green.

When autumn comes, the days get shorter, and the trees get ready for winter. There is not enough sunlight in winter to make food. The trees stop making food in their leaves. The green color goes away, and we see other colors instead. These colors were there all along. The green was covering them up!

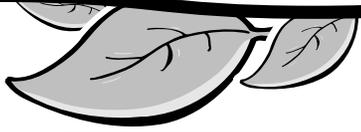
All the leaves fall off the trees in winter. Winter ends. The trees are done resting. They begin to make food again. Small buds appear on the trees in spring. New green leaves grow!



Can you find out?

- Why is there less sunlight in the winter?
- What kinds of trees keep most of their leaves in the winter?

WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR?



Autumn

Blank writing area for Autumn.

Winter

Blank writing area for Winter.

Spring

Blank writing area for Spring.

What happens to leaves in the summer? _____



- Use the facts to write a paragraph telling why leaves change color.