



Why Do Leaves Change Colour in Autumn?

Autumn Leaves Factfile

- Leaves are green because they contain a substance called chlorophyll.
- Leaves make chlorophyll using sunlight.
- It's chlorophyll that gives leaves their green colour.
- Leaves use chlorophyll to make the food they need for energy. They make food using sunlight, water and carbon dioxide.



- During winter, a tree's leaves cannot get enough sunlight and water to make food.
- So in autumn, a leaf stops making food. It also stops making green chlorophyll.
- The leaf's green colour starts to fade.
- Then the leaf's other colours, which are normally hidden by green, show through.
- Once leaves stop making food, they drop from the tree.

Trees that drop their leaves in autumn are called deciduous trees.





Name Date

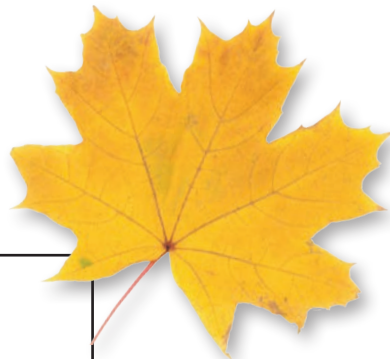
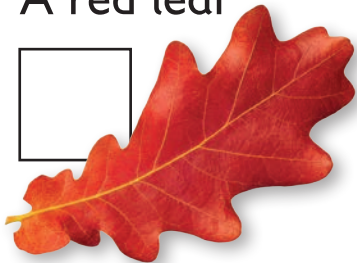
Autumn Leaves Treasure Hunt

Test your powers of observation and go on a leaf hunt in a garden, park or woodland.

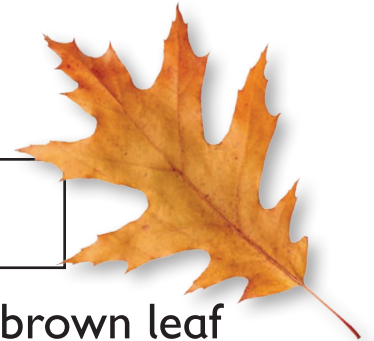
Tick the box when you find one of the items.



A red leaf

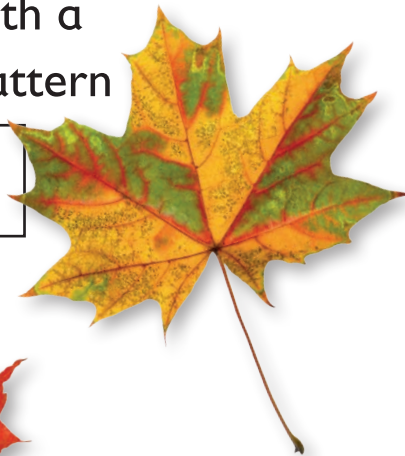


A yellow leaf



A brown leaf

A leaf with a pretty pattern



A leaf that's half green



A leaf that has three different colours



What do you think happens to leaves that fall from trees in autumn?

Answer: Fallen leaves rot and become part of the soil. Worms also help recycle fallen leaves into new soil. Worms eat dead, rotting leaves and soil. Inside their bodies, this mixture becomes leafy, muddy poo that gets mixed into the soil.