

The Magic of Changing Leaves

The Arrival of Autumn

The magic of changing leaves begins in the fall, during a season called autumn. In many places, autumn comes after summer when the days start to become cooler and shorter. This change in the weather is an important part of the process.

The Special Pigments

Leaves are usually green because of a pigment called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll helps leaves make food for the tree through a process called photosynthesis. But when autumn arrives, something exciting happens. The tree starts to break down the chlorophyll, revealing the other colors that were hiding in the leaves.

The Beautiful Colors Emerge

As the chlorophyll fades away, other pigments in the leaves start to shine through. Some leaves turn bright red, others become yellow or orange, and some even change to a deep purple or brown. The mix of these colors creates the stunning fall foliage that we all love to see.



Environmental Factors

The exact colors and timing of this magical transformation can be influenced by the weather and the type of tree. For example, some trees change earlier in the season, while others wait until later. The colors can be more vibrant in places where the weather is cooler.

Leaves Fall to the Ground

Eventually, as the days get even shorter and colder, the leaves can't hang on to the tree anymore. They gently fall to the ground, covering the earth in a beautiful carpet of colors. These fallen leaves help protect the tree's roots and provide food for insects and animals.

The changing of leaves in the fall is a reminder of how amazing nature can be. It's like a magic show that happens every year, turning ordinary green leaves into a brilliant display of reds, yellows, and oranges. So, the next time you see the leaves changing, remember the magic that's happening right before your eyes



Name _____

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1. What is the text structure of this passage? (circle one)

description

cause and effect

compare and contrast

problem and solution

sequence

2. Highlight the headings in the passage.

3. What gives leaves their green color? (highlight text evidence) _____

4. What happens when chlorophyll fades away? (highlight text evidence) _____

5. How do fallen leaves benefit a tree? (highlight text evidence) _____

6. Color the leaf on the left the way it looks in the summer when the leaf is full of chlorophyll.

7. Color the leaf on the right the way it might look in the fall when the chlorophyll is gone.

