

# FALLING FOR COLOR

Why are leaves bright orange and red in the fall?

Leaves have different pigments that give them their color. One of these is chlorophyll which absorbs the sun's energy, used to make food for the plant during photosynthesis. Chlorophyll reflects green light, so it looks green to us.

During the spring and summer chlorophyll hides chemicals called anthocyanins that produce purples & red and carotenoids that produce orange pigments.

As the days and nights get cooler, Deciduous trees (trees that drop their leaves in fall) slow down the production of chlorophyll. As this happens, the production of green pigment stops.

The red and orange pigments are still in the leaf, and finally get to show!

What colors can you find? Go for a hike and try to find these colors. Put a check mark in the box, try to collect all the colors.



Orange



Pink



Green-yellow



Gold



Red



Brown

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FALL COLOR?

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