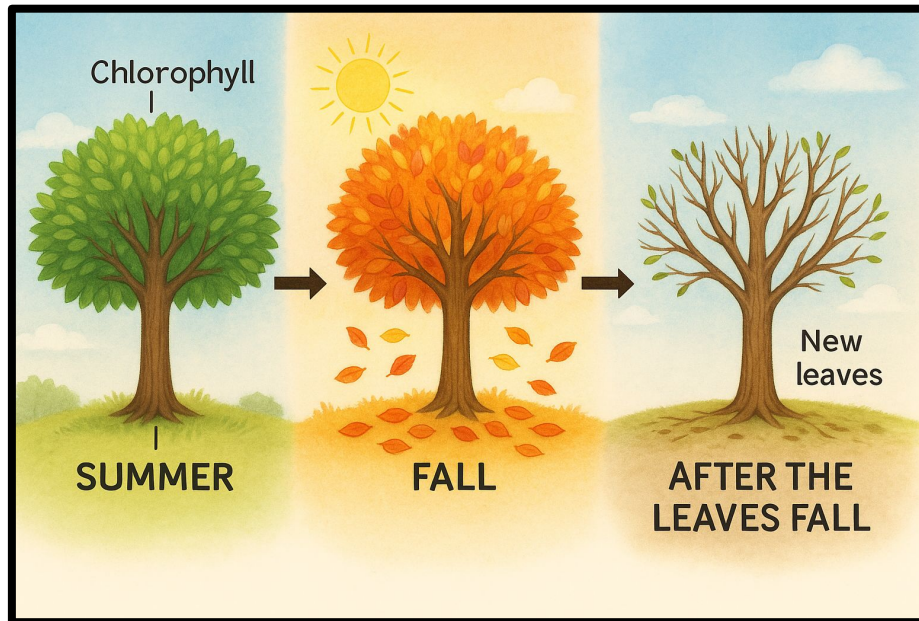


Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



Why Do Leaves Change Color?

In the fall, many trees look different. Their green leaves turn orange, red, and yellow. Then the leaves fall off.

Leaves change color because of light. In the summer, the days are long and full of sunshine. Leaves make food from sunlight using a green part called chlorophyll.

When fall comes, the days get shorter and cooler. There is less sunlight. The green chlorophyll starts to fade.

As the green fades, other colors show up. These colors were always in the leaves, but we couldn't see them before.

After a while, the leaves fall to the ground. New ones will grow in the spring.



Name: _____

Why Do Leaves Change Color?

1. What makes leaves look green in the summer?

- A. The wind
- B. The clouds
- C. The chlorophyll
- D. The tree trunk

2. What happens when there is less sunlight in the fall?

- A. Leaves grow bigger
- B. Chlorophyll fades and other colors show
- C. Trees grow more roots
- D. Rain makes trees colorful

3. Fill in the blank:

When fall comes, the days get shorter and _____.

4. What is one reason leaves change color? Use a sentence from the text to support your answer.

5. What did you learn about the hidden colors in leaves?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: H

Lexile Level: 200L-350L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Informational Text

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read a nonfiction passage about why leaves change color in the fall. As we read, let's ask questions and use the text to find the answers. We'll practice using evidence from the passage to explain our thinking."

Vocabulary: chlorophyll, sunlight, fade, fall, spring

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you notice about trees in the fall?
 2. Have you ever wondered why the leaves change color?
 3. What do you think trees need to grow?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What makes the green color in leaves?
 2. What happens to the green color in the fall?
 3. What happens after the leaves change?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is one question the text answered for you?
 2. What part of the text explains how other colors were always in the leaves?
 3. How can you use a sentence from the passage to explain why leaves fall?
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Activity Idea

Give students a cut-and-paste "leaf timeline" showing green leaves, color-changing leaves, and fallen leaves. Have them write or draw what happens at each step. Then they highlight one sentence from the passage that explains each stage.

