

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



## Why Leaves Change Color

Have you ever wondered why tree leaves turn red, orange, or yellow in the fall? It's not just because the air feels colder—there's a scientific reason!

Leaves are green in the summer because they contain something called **chlorophyll**. Chlorophyll helps the plant make food from sunlight. But when fall arrives, the days get shorter and there's less sunlight.

**As a result**, trees start to slow down their food-making process. The chlorophyll begins to break down and fade away. When the green fades, other colors that were hidden before start to show.

**That's why** you see bright red, yellow, and orange leaves in the fall. Each tree shows different colors depending on what's in the leaf.

**After that**, the leaves dry out and fall from the tree. The tree is getting ready to rest for the winter.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Why Leaves Change Color

1. Why do leaves stop making food in the fall?

- A. Because there is less sunlight during shorter days
- B. Because it rains too much
- C. Because trees don't need food anymore
- D. Because the leaves get eaten by animals

2. Which sentence shows a cause-and-effect relationship?

- A. The chlorophyll fades, so the other colors show.
- B. Leaves come in many shapes and sizes.
- C. Some trees grow near rivers.
- D. Trees are tall plants with roots.

3. Fill in the blank:

Leaves change color **because** the green chlorophyll begins to \_\_\_\_\_.

4. What causes the leaves to stop making food?

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5. How does the author organize the information to help you understand the changes?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** M

**Lexile Level:** 425L-575L

**Grade Level:** 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Informational / Life Science

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## Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read a passage about why leaves change color in the fall. We'll focus on how the author uses cause-and-effect relationships and time order to explain what happens and why."

**Vocabulary:** chlorophyll, sunlight, break down, fade, result

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about leaves changing color?
  2. What does your yard or neighborhood look like in the fall?
  3. Why do you think the weather might affect trees
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What causes chlorophyll to fade?
  2. What signal words help show cause and effect?
  3. What happens after the leaves change color?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What was the cause of the color change?
  2. How does the author connect each part of the process?
  3. What would happen if the days didn't get shorter?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create a simple "Fall Leaf Flow Chart" with four boxes: 1) Full green leaves in summer, 2) Less sunlight in fall, 3) Chlorophyll fades, 4) Colorful leaves drop. In each box, they'll write one sentence showing the cause/effect or time order from the passage.

