

Experiment 4: Are Leaves Really Green? (Links to natural dyes)

Extension of “how plants absorb water experiment”, get a closer look at how this happens!

This is one of the most fun hands-on plant science experiments for kids. Ask them if they really think leaves are green or if leaves have different colours hiding inside them.

Materials

- Pencil
- Cup
- Leaves
- Rubbing Alcohol
- Water
- Scissors
- Paper towels
- Pestle and mortar

Instructions

An adult should help with rubbing alcohol, as this could be dangerous.

Step 1

Take a leaf and pestle and mortar to make a paste.

Step 2

In the cup, mix equal parts water and rubbing alcohol – just enough to cover the leaf paste in the bottom of the cup.

Step 3

Mix the leaf paste with the solution and let your experiment sit overnight.

Step 4

Cut a long strip of kitchen paper towel with a scissors.

Step 5

Roll the strip of kitchen paper towel wrap around the middle of the pencil, so that it is leaving one end of paper one end of kitchen paper towel hanging loose.

Step 6

Place the pencil across the cup. Let the paper sit in the solution for 15 – 20 minutes. Then set the paper aside to dry.

What do you observe?

Now let the paper towel sit still. After a few hours you will notice different colour pigments on the paper towel strip. What colour pigments do you see?