



# Investigating Leaf Pigments

**The Big Idea of this activity:** Different pigments can exist hidden in other colors. Green down in leaves is the process of the green pigment moving away revealing other color pigments that are left behind.



During autumn, green Chlorophyll is reabsorbed into the plant and leaves behind colored pigments that were always there!

**Materials:** jar, water, scissors, non-Crayola brand black marker, pencil, tape, ruler, paper towel strip



## Procedure:

1. Measure the water in a jar to make sure it is 2cm.
2. Cut a strip of paper towel 2cm wide and about as long as the jar is tall.
3. Tape the strip to the middle of a pencil.
4. Make a BIG black dot with the marker about 2 cm from the bottom of the paper towel strip.
5. Make sure the dot is 1 cm ABOVE the water.
6. Lay pencil across the top of the jar.
7. Allow the water to travel up the strip and watch what happens to the pigments.

**EXTENSION:** Older students can repeat the process with different markers to compare results. They can measure how far the colors have traveled in the different marker samples, and record the results.



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## Thinking About What You Saw



Write or draw a picture of what happened to the black dot. What colors were hidden under the black?



Testing different markers



How is the paper strip like the leaves in fall that change colors? Remember your adopted leaves? What changes did you see in your leaves?