

Activity: Discover the True Color of a Leaf!

THE TOOLS YOU'LL NEED

- Different types of leaves: 5 of each kind
- Small clear jars with lids or plastic wrap if you don't have lids
- Rubbing alcohol
- Tool to mash leaves
- Large casserole dish or bowl that holds the jars
- Hot water: Do not use boiling water!
- Coffee filters
- Plates
- Safety glasses



You know your kids best. Use your judgment to determine which steps adults and kids perform. Remember, safety first.



Step 1

Go outside and gather different types of leaves. You will need at least 5 good-sized leaves of each type.



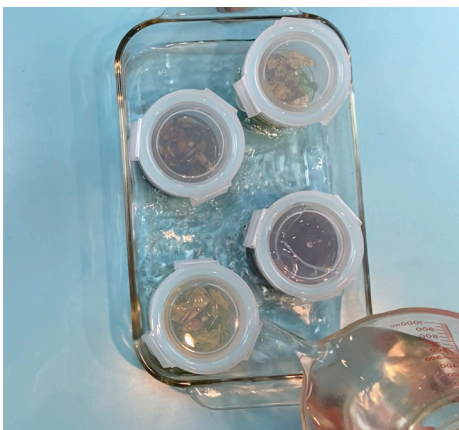
Step 2

Set out one jar for each type of leaf you have collected. Tear the leaves up nice and small, and add the leaves to the jars.



Step 3

Add just enough rubbing alcohol to cover the leaves. Use a utensil to mash up the leaves. Cover with lids or plastic wrap.



Step 4

Place the jars of muddled leaves in a casserole dish or bowl. Add hot water to the bowl or dish and cover the jars with lids or plastic wrap. Wait at least 30 minutes or even overnight! The longer you wait, the stronger the colors will be!



Step 5

Place the coffee filter on a plate. Using a teaspoon or dropper, add a couple of drops of the leaf and alcohol mixture to the coffee filter.



Step 6

Wait 30 minutes to one hour to see how the colors move and separate on the coffee filter paper. What do you think will happen if the paper sits overnight? Wait and see!