

# Kids Page

## AUTUMN

Hi! I'm **Autumn**,  
a **Leaf Turner!**  
**Leaf Turners**  
help the leaves  
turn colors in the fall.

The leaves on trees do many important things. Special chemicals in the leaves turn sunlight into food.

The most common chemical is called **chlorophyll**, which is what gives the leaves their green color in the summer. When temperatures go down in the autumn, different chemicals take over, and the leaves change colors.

**Carotenoids** give leaves their yellow and orange colors. The red and purple colors are caused by **anthocyanins**. These chemicals take over in the fall because they are better at capturing the light the sun gives off in the autumn.

Trees that lose their leaves in the winter are called **deciduous** trees. In the winter, there is not enough light for the tree's leaves to make very much food. Since the tree doesn't need to catch the light anymore, the leaves fall to the ground where they break down, or **decay**, and give **nutrients** back to the trees. Nutrients are like vitamins for trees.

Before the leaves drop for the winter, you can view the pretty autumn leaves, or **foliage**, all around you. Try to figure out which leaves are using chlorophyll (green leaves), which are using carotenoids (yellow and orange leaves), and which are using anthocyanins (red and purple leaves).

Very treely yours, 



### A Lasting Impression

1. Collect 5 - 10 leaves from your backyard, school yard, or neighborhood.
2. Place the leaves on a flat surface and cover them with a thin sheet of paper.
3. Gently rub over the top of each leaf with the side of a crayon.
4. Take a rubbing from each leaf, using different color crayons. You can do multiple rubbings on one page, but leave room to cut them out.
5. Cut out the leaves and glue each one to a separate piece of paper.
6. See if any of your leaves match the leaves on this page. If not, go to the library or ask an adult to help identify the leaf. Write information next to each leaf, such as the name and where it was collected.
7. Use the cut-out rubbings as decorative elements in autumn-themed cards and other art projects.

See if you can find these popular leaves in your backyard or around town.



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