

## Preserving Fall Leaves

So where does the color come from? Sometimes we ask this question when we see the beautiful fall colors in leaves. Actually, the colors have been in the leaves all along. You can't see the colors because they are covered by chlorophyll. The green chlorophyll helps the leaves carry on photosynthesis. In the fall, as the days get shorter and cooler, and the trees stop carrying on photosynthesis and the chlorophyll disappears. In this activity, you will preserve, or prevent, the color from fading from the leaves. **This activity is done with an adult!**



### You Will Need:

wax paper  
paper towels  
iron  
ironing board  
leaves  
brown paper bag  
scissors

### What to Do

**Have an adult do all the ironing!**

1. First, dry the leaf. Place it between two paper towels.

Iron each side for 3-5 minutes. Make sure the iron is not set to steam. Feel the leaf. If it is not dry, iron each side for a few more minutes.

2. Place this leaf between two sheets of wax paper. Wax paper is waxed on both sides so it makes no difference which side of the paper is used.

3. Place the wax paper and leaf between two pieces of a brown paper bag. Use a warm iron to seal the two pieces of wax paper. Heat one side for a few minutes. Since it is warm, carefully turn the whole thing over and repeat sealing.

4. When cool, remove the paper bag sheets. Cut around the leaf. Make sure you leave a small amount of wax paper around the leaf. This way the leaf will stay sealed. Rather than cutting, you can try to peel the wax paper off the leaf. A coating of wax will remain.

### On the Internet

To help you identify your leaves, go to:

[www.mbgnet.net/sets/temp/index.htm](http://www.mbgnet.net/sets/temp/index.htm)