



BOOMbox at Home

Chlorophyll Paintings

Chlorophyll is the green pigment in plants that helps them absorb sunlight for photosynthesis. It's what makes leaves look green! To understand chlorophyll better, try this simple activity.

For this activity, first you must go outside! Grab your shoes and your grown-up and run outside to grab the last of the green leaves that have floated to the ground. You can experiment with different sizes, different colors, and different types of leaves. Once you've gathered your pile of leaves, shake them off for any excess dirt (or a small bug that may have been taking a nap). Take your leaves inside and it's time to get started on the activity. If you don't have a lot of leaves in your area – that is totally fine! You can buy spinach and other bright green lettuces from the grocery store for this activity. Spinach specifically has lots of chlorophyll in it.

Supplies

- Fallen leaves from your backyard (the greener the better)
- White Paper
- Pencils or markers
- Metal Spoon

Instructions

- Fold a sheet of white paper in half
- Place several of your leaves between the folded paper
- Place firmly onto the folded page and use a metal spoon to rub the leaves inside the paper. This will allow the chlorophyll
- OR Draw or print out the outline of a tree trunk and branches. We have an example below!

- Bunch up some of your leaves into a small ball in your hand.
- Use this ball of crumpled leaves to “paint” like you would with a paint brush, pressing down hard for the chlorophyll to rub off onto the paper.

Want to explore more?

- Play around with different types of leaf experiments like the Children's Museum of South Dakota and their [Chromatography Experiment](#).
- Check out more from PBS project NOVA to play with an interactive display on photosynthesis called [“Illuminating Photosynthesis.”](#)

What will you learn today?

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