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WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR?

Read the passage and complete the cause-effect diagram.

In some areas of the world, the weather changes in the fall, making the air turn cold. During this time, many leaves also change colors. Why does this happen?

Plants and trees use sunlight, water, and air to make their own food. Tree leaves contain a substance called chlorophyll that changes sunlight into food. Chlorophyll is green and the leaves store a supply of it that is made during the long summer days; this makes the leaves appear green. However, hiding behind the green are the reds, yellows, oranges, and browns.

In the winter, it takes a lot of energy and water for plants to keep their leaves healthy. This is because there isn't much sun during the day and so it is difficult for plants to make food. As a result, the green chlorophyll begins to fade and we see the reds, yellows, browns, and oranges that were hiding during the summer. When this happens we know fall has arrived.

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During winter, the days are shorter and less sunlight is available.

Green chlorophyll begins to fade.

We know the fall has arrived.

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