

Colour in Leaves

The Science Behind the Experiment - A Guide for Adults

The process of chromatography involves using filter paper to separate different dissolved substances. The different parts of the mixture will move different distances up the paper. The green leaves contain at least 2 different coloured pigments. The pigments that are more soluble in the alcohol move further up the paper than the less soluble pigments. You should see a blueish-green pigment below a yellowish-green pigment. The blueish-green pigment is less soluble than the yellowish-green pigment, so it doesn't move as far up the paper.

Science Experiment

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What can you see on the filter paper?
Look closely. What colours can you see?
Can you see different shades?