

all about plants

activities at home



Leaf patches

Discover what happens if you change the patterns of a plant's light source. Without enough sunlight, plants cannot use the process of photosynthesis to make their own food.

Materials:

- Small shrub, tree, or house plant
- Cardboard or aluminum foil
- Scissors
- Paper clips

What to do:

- 1 Pick a shrub, tree, or houseplant that gets plenty of sunlight.
- 2 Using the cardboard or aluminum foil, cut out some geometrical shapes like a circle, square, or triangle. Make sure your patches are big enough to cover nearly half of the plant's leaf.
- 3 Paperclip each patch on a different leaf.
- 4 After four days, remove the patched from the leaves and observe each of the leaves that had a patch covering it.
- 5 Compare the areas on the leaf that were covered with the patch to other parts of the leaf. Do you see any differences in color?

Where the leaf was covered, the green pigment called chlorophyll couldn't capture the sunlight to make food. So, the covered cells began losing their healthy green color.

