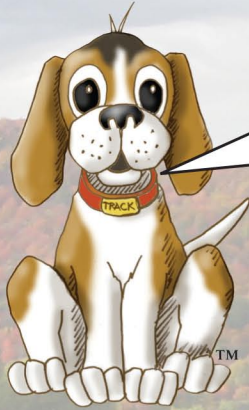




October TRACK-tivity: *Nature's Painted Landscape*



Hiking in the fall is extra fun because of all the different colors in the trees! On your next hike, see how many different colors of leaves you can find. Can you guess what kind of tree each leaf came from by the shape?



☐ Flowering Dogwood



☐ Oaks



☐ Sassafras



☐ Hickory



☐ American Beech

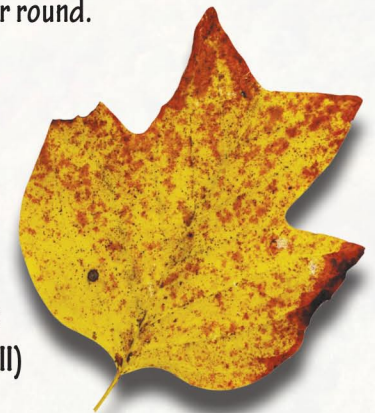
The Chemistry of Fall Colors



☐ American Holly

Plants that lose their leaves, called **deciduous**, stop producing chlorophyll in the fall when the days get shorter. As chlorophyll disappears, the pigments that make leaves turn yellow (**xanthophyll**) or orange (**carotene**) are revealed.

Some plants, called **evergreens**, have special adaptations that allow them to keep their green color pigments (**chlorophyll**) all year round.



☐ Tulip Poplar



☐ Red Maple

When days shorten, a barrier forms between the leaf stem and branch, trapping sugars in the leaf. These sugars react with bright sunlight producing a sappy substance called **anthocyanin**. Anthocyanins are responsible for the brilliant red colors we see every fall.