Cause and Effect

Grade 2 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the best answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Why Leaves Change Color

In summer, most tree leaves are green. They get their color from chlorophyll. Chlorophyll helps leaves use sunlight to make food for the tree.

Leaves also hold yellow and orange colors. All summer, these colors stay hidden, because so much green covers them up.

In fall, the days grow shorter and the nights get cooler. With less sunlight, the tree stops making new chlorophyll. The green slowly fades away. As the green fades, the yellow and orange colors begin to show.

Some trees, like maples, can also make red colors in fall. Sunny days and cool nights help the red get brighter.

Later, the tree grows a thin layer of cells where each leaf joins its twig. This layer slowly closes off the leaf. Then the leaf turns brown, dries out, and falls.

Losing its leaves helps the tree get ready for winter. A bare tree uses less water while the ground is frozen. In spring, new green leaves grow from buds on the twigs.

1. Why are the yellow and orange colors hidden in summer?
   - The tree has not made them yet.
   - So much green covers them up.
   - The sun is too bright to see them.

2. Why does the tree stop making new chlorophyll in fall?
   - The ground is frozen hard.
   - There is less sunlight.
   - The leaves turn brown first.

3. What happens as the green fades?
   - The nights begin to get much warmer and shorter.
   - New green leaves grow from the buds.
   - The yellow and orange colors begin to show.

4. Which sentence uses because the right way?
   - Because the leaves are full of green, the yellow shows.
   - Because the days grow shorter, the tree stops making chlorophyll.
   - Because the tree stops making chlorophyll, the days grow shorter.

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Answer Key - Grade 2 Reading Worksheet

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