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 does losing its leaves help a tree in winter?
   - A bare tree uses less water.
   - The leaves would make too much food.
   - A bare tree gets more sunlight.

2. What must happen before a leaf falls?
   - A thin layer of cells closes it off.
   - New buds must grow on the twig first.
   - The leaf must turn bright red or gold.

3. What does chlorophyll do for a tree?
   - It closes off each leaf when the fall comes.
   - It keeps the tree warm in the winter cold.
   - It helps leaves use sunlight to make food.

4. 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.

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Answer Key - Grade 2 Reading Worksheet

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