

# How does a Leaf Breathe?

## You will need:

- Glass bowl
- Fresh leaves (just removed from the tree)
- Water
- Small stone
- Magnifying glass (optional)

1. Cut a green leaf off a plant or tree. You will need fresh leaves and not leaves picked off the ground.
2. Add lukewarm water to a glass bowl.
3. Place the leaf in the water and put a small stone on top so the leaf is fully submerged.
4. Put the bowl in the sun and wait for 2-3 hours.
5. Watch as little air bubbles form on the top of the leaves. If have difficulty seeing the bubbles, use a small magnifying glass!



## THE SCIENCE

Plants help us breathe by taking in carbon dioxide (for photosynthesis) and letting out oxygen through their leaves - plant respiration. The leaf uses sunlight during photosynthesis which is where the plant converts the light energy into chemical energy or food for the plant. During photosynthesis, the leaf gets rid of what it doesn't need which is extra oxygen and water.

This oxygen is the bubbles that you see.



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