

From the Author

Hi,

Welcome to discoveries about *Pigments in Fall Leaves*.

Don't panic if you have little or no understanding about thermochromic dyes, it's not required. Every unit has Teaching Tips with facts and detailed clues for presenting each student activity.

Have you ever seen clothing or toys that change color when touched? These items are colored with thermochromic dyes, which are safe. The thermochromic labels in this kit are also safe to use as directed in each activity. The colors do not rub off the labels.

Now with all that said, lets get to the content of this color kit. It is important to start with unit one and follow the lessons in order. Again, the activities are sequential, with the first two units providing background information needed for the following units. The last two units model the color changes in autumn leaves.

About the Age Level

I have successfully used the activities with groups of kids of varying ages. Obviously this is because I know the material inside and out and knew what to use with each age. Does this make me a "super teacher?" Yes!

Super teachers are ordinary people who know what they are doing. So be a super teacher. It's simple, be prepared. Read and study the teaching tips and perform the student activities. Even if you are working with very young children, read the appendixes so you are very well informed. It helps to be able to explain to parents what their child has been doing in science.

Following are clues for adapting this color kit to different age groups.

Young Kids

Young kids may not be able to perform the investigations independently, but you can do more than just demonstrate the activities. Instead, make it a fun hands-on experience by guiding kids so that they can participate in some of the more simplistic procedures. Let each child participate by "helping" you do a procedure. For example, let kids take turns warming the label by holding it in their hands.

Pre-K children may not understand the science, but they can learn that the labels change color.

Elementary Kids

Adaptations of the activities depends on the ability level of the kids. The simplistic nature of the activities allows the investigations to be used with a wide age range. The art doesn't identify the activities to any specific age group.

My objective in writing science activities is for kids to learn and understand what and why things happen. With this thought in mind, it doesn't matter if students work independently, in groups, or with your guidance through each step as they learn something new.

Be smart and be prepared for student questions. Read and perform each activity in advance. Also read the appendixes for additional information about color changing or autumn leaves. The appendixes also offer enrichment investigations.

There is no guarantee that this kit provides answers to every student question. While it is fine to say, "I don't know." I suggest your answer be something like this:

"UMM! I've wondered about that.....Let's find out."

If you have difficulty discovering answers to student questions, use the contact information below and I'll help you research.

Older Kids

Yes, the activities are rather elementary for older kids. But, I suggest they be used as is.

Older kids don't want their intelligence insulted. Let them know that you agree with them, the activities are rather elementary. But, you want them to do the activities "Just for Fun!" Explain that "Just for Fun Activities" are very easy, but contain information they need to know.

Using "Just for Fun" activities can be a way to engage kids in activities for new science concepts. Thus, laying a framework for the concrete foundation to come.

While older students may not want to admit it, they learn a lot from the elementary "Just for Fun" activities. Even the appendixes provide facts they may not know.

If you have questions or comments about the kit, please send them to me:

Janice's Pigments in Fall Leaves: Thermochromic Color Kit

Janice VanCleave