

Name:

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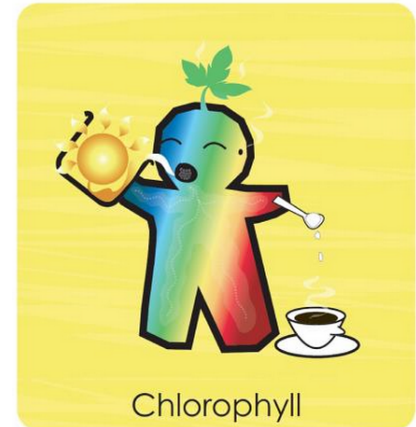
## **CHLOROPHYLL**

- \* The green stuff that makes life on Earth possible
- \* Found in chloroplasts inside plant cells
- \* Uses sunlight to make sugary plant food by photosynthesis

I'm a miracle molecule who's fantastic at absorbing light. My talent might even make me the single most important chemical on the planet. I drink in energy from the Sun and use it to power the production of sugar---food for a plant and ultimately for all things on Earth, too. As if that wasn't enough, this process (called photosynthesis) also produces the oxygen that all animals breathe and sucks up that nasty greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

I put the "green" in greenery. I live inside chloroplasts, tiny little green blobs rammed inside the cells of the leaf. Because I absorb blue and red light but not green--which is reflected back--I give plants their color. In the fall, many plants get rid of me, and their leaves turn a golden yellow color.

- Discoverer: Hans Fischer (1940)
- Number of versions of chlorophyll: six
- Number of chloroplasts that would fit on a period on a page: 10,000.



*adapted from Basher Biology 2008*

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## Questions

1. What process is controlled by the chloroplast?
2. What green pigment absorbs light in the chloroplast?
3. What is needed for the chloroplasts to do photosynthesis?
4. What is produced from photosynthesis?
5. Why do we see plants as green in color?
6. Fill in the labels for photosynthesis

