

# Desert Leaf Experiment

During dry, warm weather, some plants curl up their leaves. Find out more by completing this science experiment.

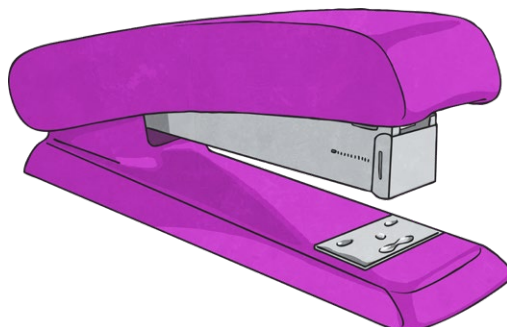
## You Will Need:

- Cloth that is water absorbent
- Scissors
- Tray
- Jug
- Water
- Warm sunny spot
- Stapler or paperclip (optional)



## Method:

1. Take the cloth and cut two identical pieces from it. These pieces can be cut into the shape of a leaf if you prefer.
2. Fill the jug with water.
3. Dip one piece of cloth into the jug of water. Then, hold it until the cloth stops dripping.
4. Place this piece on the tray.
5. Dip the second piece of cloth into the jug of water. Again, hold the cloth until it stops dripping.
6. Roll up the second piece and place it on the tray. It can be secured by using stapler or paperclip.
7. Place the tray with the cloth leaves in a warm sunny spot.
8. Leave for one hour.
9. Return and check which piece of cloth is damper.



### Questions for discussion:

- How is this experiment like real leaves on a plant in the desert?
- Which cloth was the dampest? Why?
- Which areas of the cloth leaves were drier?
- Is the curling of leaves an adaptation?
- Are curly leaves better at conserving water?
- Can you name plants that curl their leaves to conserve water?

### Possible Changes:

- For more accurate results, carefully measure the same amount of water to put on each cloth leaf using a dropper.
- Cut out different shaped leaves and see if there is a different result.
- Add a layer of waxed paper to one of your cloth leaves to represent the waxy coating found on some desert plants.
- Place some cloth leaves in a cool, shady spot and compare them with the ones in a sunny, warm spot.

