



# AUTUMN

## Autumn Fun Facts

1. People disagree over when Autumn begins - as there are **two** different dates! Autumn depends on the Earth's journey around the sun, and can fall on either the **22nd or 23rd September!**
2. One of the most obvious signs of autumn is the **turning** of the **leaves**. Trees do this on purpose! When it is **winter**, there's not enough light for trees' **food production** - so they close their food system down!
3. **Chlorophyll** is the **chemical** which makes tree leaves **green**, it is **not** produced in the winter and that is why other chemicals turn leaves **red, orange and yellow!** Some of these chemicals are the same ones that give carrots and egg yolks their colours!
4. A **study** found that babies born during the **autumn** months are more likely to live to **100** than those born during the rest of the year!



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## Comprehension

1. On what **TWO** dates could Autumn **begin**?

2. Why do leaves change **colour** in Autumn?

3. What is the name of the **chemical** which makes tree leaves **green**?

4. When leaves turn yellow and orange their chemicals change. Name **ONE** food that has the **same** chemicals.

4. 'A study found that people born in Autumn are **less** likely to live **past** the age of **100**'. TRUE or FALSE?



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## Autumn Fun Facts

5. During autumn the days get **shorter**. The length of **day** (light) and **night** (dark) are equal at the start of autumn- but then the number of dark hours **increases**!
6. Sometimes, Autumn does **not** begin on the **22nd OR 23rd**... but the **24th** of August! Because our calendar is not quite lined up with the Earth's **orbit**, autumn will very occasionally fall on September 24. This last happened in **1931** and will next happen in **2303**!
7. The **Ancient Greeks** thought that autumn began when **Persephone** was taken by **Hades** to be the **Queen of the Underworld**! In sadness, her mother, **Demeter** (the goddess of **harvest**), caused all the crops on Earth to **die** until her daughter was allowed to return!
8. Many people think '**fall**' is the **American** version of the word 'autumn'... but that's not true! 'Fall' is short for '**fall of the leaf**', and was used in **England** until the **18th century**- when the French word '**Automne**' began to be used instead!



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## comprehension

5. In Autumn, what happens to the **length** of the day?

6. Why can autumn *sometimes* begin on the **24th of August**? **BONUS**: When will this next happen?

7. What do the **Ancient Greeks** believe about the beginning of August?

8. Where does the term '**fall**' come from?

9. **When** did people in England **stop** calling Autumn '**fall**'? Why?