Leaves change slowly and over time may be any combination of the four pigments, ending in a brilliant flame of anthocyanin. The anthocyanin in these leaves makes them the color and shape of flames, and appears as fire against the duller colors of the surrounding landscape.

Light filtering through the xanthophyll and lighter carotene of these leaves creates an ethereal glow. Carotenes recede quickly around the edges of the leaves as they prepare to parachute to the ground.

The darker anthocyanin hues turn these feathery leaves the color of shadows—fitting for the spooky month of Halloween.

A pale hint of chlorophyll mixes with xanthophyll and a touch of carotene as this tree shuts down for winter.

Leaves turn color early in the season; the lighter carotenes glow warmly against the blue sky and green grass.

Like the maple, this tree puts on an awe-inspiring display of xanthophyll, carotene, and anthocyanin all together.

There are four pigments responsible for leaf colors:

- **Chlorophyll** (pronounced KLOR-a-fill) – green
- **Xanthophyll** (pronounced ZAN-tho-fill) – yellow
- **Carotene** (pronounced CARE-a-teen) – gold, orange
- **Anthocyanin** (pronounced an-tho-SIGH-a-nin) – red, violet, can also be bluish

Leaves are brown when there are no more photo-sensitive pigments; only the tannins are left.

Color these leaves according to the pigments they produce:

**Answers:**

- Sugar maple
- Pin oak
- Tulip tree
- Honey locust
- Sweetgum
- Japanese maple
- Sumac
- Buckeye
- Ginkgo
- Japanese maple
- Japanese maple
- Pin oak
- Japanese maple
- Buckeye
- Sumac
- Sweetgum
- Honey locust
- Tulip tree
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- Pin oak
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