

Lower 4 investigate starch production and photosynthesis



This week Lower 4 biologists have been busy in the lab setting up an experiment to investigate how light affects the quantity of starch produced by a plant. At first they were rather shocked that I had purposely left a plant in the dark for nearly a week to deprive the plant of carrying out any photosynthesis. This caused all the starch reserves to be used up. Pupils then cut out shapes to pin to the leaves to continue light deprivation. The plants were then left for a few days to carry out normal levels of photosynthesis in the uncovered regions of the leaves.

Lower 4 then got the opportunity to carry out a starch test on their leaf to discover if starch had been made. I must say, I think their starch test results were probably the best I have ever seen. It was very clear to see that without light, the plant was unable to make starch, indicated by the yellow regions on the photos opposite.

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