**Sunlight challenge—teacher document**

This activity is to help students to understand bigger leaves will capture more sunlight. Thus, if students clip three Kapok leaves, the least amount of sunlight will be captured. In contrast, if three Giant taro leaves are chosen, the maximum amount of sunlight will be captured. Following this activity, it will be useful to show students the table below. Students will then understand Giant taro is very short (live in the rainforest understory where sunlight is very limited) but has big leaves so they can capture more sunlight. For Kapok trees, they live in the top layers of a forest where sunlight is abundant so they have small leaves. We have a lot of cool pictures of these tree species in the presentation.

Selected tree species in rain forests

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| **Category** | **Height** | **Leaf size** |
| Kapok (*Ceiba pentandra*) | 70 m (230 feet) | 7-20 cm (3-8 inches) |
| White oak (Castanopsis acuminatissima) | 40 m (130) | 9.0-11.5 cm (3-5 inches) |
| Gumtree (*Sapium glandulosum*) | 30 m (100 feet)  | 27 cm (11 inches) |
| Ant tree (*Triplaris americana*) | 10 m (32 feet) | 40 cm (16 inches) |
| Giant taro (*Alocasia macrorrhiza*) | 1.2-1.8 m (4-6 feet) |  20-90 cm (7-35 inches) |