

CHANGING SEASONS

Lesson By: Lisa Maertin

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Focus:

This lesson will address how trees and other items look different with the changing of the seasons.

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to see a tree in at least one season.
2. Students will be able to describe the differences in trees by their seasons.

Standards:

SCI K.2.3 2010

Describe in words and pictures the changes in weather from month to month and season to season.

Background:

In Indiana we have four seasons: summer, fall, spring, and winter. We often think in one season we are a little too chilly, a little too hot, and sometimes weather that is just right. Trees, like us, can feel a little too chilly and a little too hot. Just like us, they have different “clothes” every season but they don’t put on a jacket and a hat to warm up. Instead they change their leaves every season. In summer we usually see lots of green leaves. In fall their leaves are still there but instead they change colors to make really pretty colors like red, orange, and yellow. By winter all the leaves fall off and all that’s left are the branches. Then in summer there are buds that grow on the tree and those buds turn into flowers and the summer leaves we know so well.

For more background information or a story to read try this book: *The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree* by Gail Gibbons. [Harcourt Brace and Company, 1984, ISBN 0152712453] It is the story of a young boy and how he enjoys and uses his apple tree through the seasons. The story starts in the spring and follows through the various activities associated with each season.

Materials:

1. Leaves in the field
2. Glue/Tape
3. Tree Worksheets (provided on another file)

Procedure (30 Minutes Total):

Part 1 [15 Minutes]

1. Start off with a discussion about the different seasons and how a tree might look in each season.
2. Ask the children to gather leaves and buds from around the tree near the picnic area. (If it’s raining or if there is a storm this activity can be done just inside.)
3. Hand each student a paper tree sheet. Label the sheet with the appropriate season.

4. Then ask the students to glue/tape the collected objects onto their tree to make it look like the tree that they saw.

Part 2 [15 Minutes]

5. Finish the activity with a discussion. This can either be done at school or in the field.
6. Discuss with the students how the tree looks right now.
7. Discuss how the tree might look when the season changes.
8. Let the students finish up the rest of the trees in the worksheet packet using the items included in the packet (leaves, buds, etc.) Make sure that the students work on the other seasons instead of the one they worked on earlier in the lesson.

Evaluation:

1. Student's pictures of the trees for each season will be collected to make sure they understand the visual differences.
2. Teachers can listen and evaluate comments and connections made during the discussion.