

lesson topic: **Seasonal Changes**

overview

These lessons gives students an opportunity to observe and record the seasonal changes that occur in the garden prior to the winter season.

objectives

Students will learn:

- the signs of seasonal change such as the change in the length of the day/less daylight/change in the sun's angle, the change in plant growth, and the reappearance/disappearance of certain animals in the garden.
- the skill of recording these changes over time.
- the skill of creating graphs to record their observations.

materials

For this lesson, you will need:

- journal page (sample attached)
- clipboard
- pencil
- samples of signs of Fall such as colorful leaves, seed pods, Fall fruits (squashes, gourds, apples, etc.)

resources

Read the book:
"It's Fall," by Linda Glaser

learning activity

1. Begin the lesson by reviewing the four seasons: winter, spring, summer and fall.

2. Ask the children "What are some signs that it is Winter? Spring? Summer? Fall?"

3. Explain to the students that today's lesson is about the seasonal changes in Fall. Have a discussion to see if the students have noticed any signs of Fall on their way to or from school. Some examples might include: the sun setting earlier/days getting shorter; leaves changing color; geese migrating, flying overhead in a V-formation; the appearance of monarch butterflies, heading South; the days getting colder; squirrels gathering and burying acorns; and plants ending their growing season, drying out and seeds all around to be saved for the next growing season. Share samples with class.

4. Whenever possible, once Fall officially begins, have the children observe the seasonal changes in the Fall and record them on the attached (sample) journal page.

5. After data is collected, have the children create various graphs to illustrate the observations they made (ie. variety of animals they observed and the number of times they observed them; the variety and number of seed pods they collected).

extending the lesson

Continue the fun by:

Having students save seeds to plant in the next growing season, or to create a mosaic!

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My Garden Journal

Here are some possible ways the students can observe the seasonal changes:

1. **Take note of the change in the length of the day over the course of four weeks (for example, from mid-September to mid-October). Have students use information from weather maps/ reports to do this.**

Date	Time Sun Set	Date	Time Sun Set	Date	Time Sun Set

2. **Take note of the animals in the garden and the signs they show that the seasons are changing.**

Date	Today I saw:	Date	Today I saw:

3. **Take note of the various seeds you find in the garden. Draw (or glue) and label them below.**

_____	_____	_____	_____

