

Seasons and Seasonality

This lesson reviews content about seasonality and associated weather conditions. This activity is great to repeat throughout the year to allow students to observe and compare many different patterns in weather and to recognize what fruits and vegetables are “in season.” This lesson helps students understand why certain plants are “in season” in the garden.

Check Yourself

Equity • Accessibility • Justice • Resilience

How can I include conversations about seasons experienced around the world?

Are there special seasonal celebrations different cultures practice?

Are all of my students born in our region or do some have different experiences with seasons?

How can I be mindful that students experience seasons differently if they are unhoused?

What kind of questions may arise about climate change and fire season?

Objectives/Assessment Targets

Students will:

- Describe indicators of changing seasons.
- Draw and label seasonal indicators, such as plants and animals.

Materials

- Clipboards
- **Scavenger Hunt**
- **Apple Tree Pictures**



Preparation

Craft a discussion about the weather and prep materials for students to record observations. A “Wonder Wall” is a white board or butcher paper set up for students to write down their questions, curiosities, and desires to learn more about particular topics. It can also be used as a tool to find out what students already know about the weather and seasons. Prepare students to walk around the garden and draw their seasonal observations.

Activity 1: Clues to the Seasons

Describe how we observe seasons in the garden. Students look around the garden or take a nature walk.

Ask:

- *How do we know that seasons are changing?*
- *How do we know that it's autumn?*

Using the Apple Tree Pictures, discuss the clues that tell us what season it is:

- Fall: Sunny, Rainy, Cloudy, Windy. (Apple tree full of mature fruit and leaves.)
- Winter: Rainy, Cloudy, Windy. (Apple tree bare.)
- Spring: Sunny, Rainy, Cloudy, Windy. (Apple tree with budding leaves and flowers.)
- Summer: Sunny. (Apple tree full of leaves and unripe fruit.)

“How do we know that seasons are changing?”



Activity 2: Scavenger Hunt

Hand out clipboards, scavenger hunt worksheets, and writing utensils. Students walk around the garden checking off items as they find them and drawing them next to the labels in the worksheet.

Ask:

- *What clues tell us what the seasons are?*
- *What clues might we look for in the Winter/Summer/Spring?*

Students share out some of their drawings.

Questions for Student Reflection



- *What clues could you look for about the seasons in the garden or in your neighborhoods?*
- *How does the weather change when the sun comes up or goes down?*
- *How does the sun feel on your skin? How does the weather change what we do?*

Supplemental Resources

- *Every Autumn Comes the Bear*, Jim Arnosky
- *A Seed is Sleepy*, Dianna Hutts Aston
- *Raccoons and Ripe Corn*, Jim Arnosky
- [Why Are There Seasons?](#)
- [An Apple Tree Changing in Seasons: Interactive Slides](#)

Sources

Brain POP Jr.

Standards Alignment

CCSS ELA

(L.1.5.C) Identify real-life connections between words and their use

NGSS

(Science/Engineering Practice 1 | Asking Questions and Defining Problems) Ask questions based on observations to find more information about the natural and/or designed world(s).

(Disciplinary Core Idea ESS2.D | Weather and Climate) Weather is the combination of sunlight, wind, snow or rain, and temperature in a particular region at a particular time. People measure these conditions to describe and record the weather and to notice patterns over time.

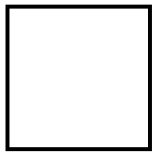
(Disciplinary Core Idea ESS1.B | Earth and the Solar System) Seasonal patterns of sunrise and sunset can be observed, described, and predicted.

Name: _____

Can you find these signs of fall in the garden? When you find a sign, put an X in the box and draw a picture of what you see.

<p>leaves changing color</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>dead plants</p> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>seasonal fruit</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>a bird</p> <input type="checkbox"/>

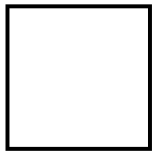
seeds on a plant



a Monarch butterfly



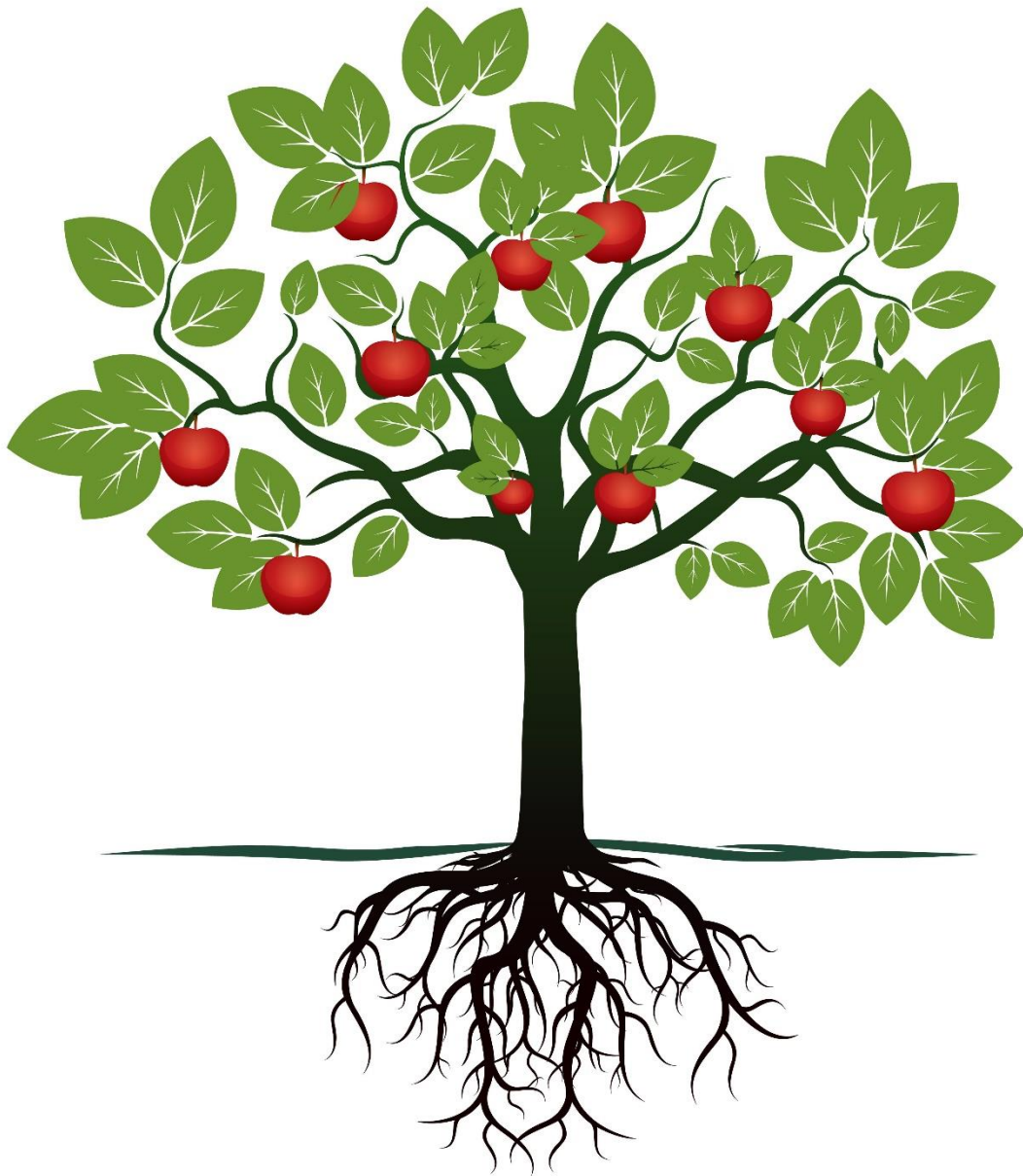
fog or clouds



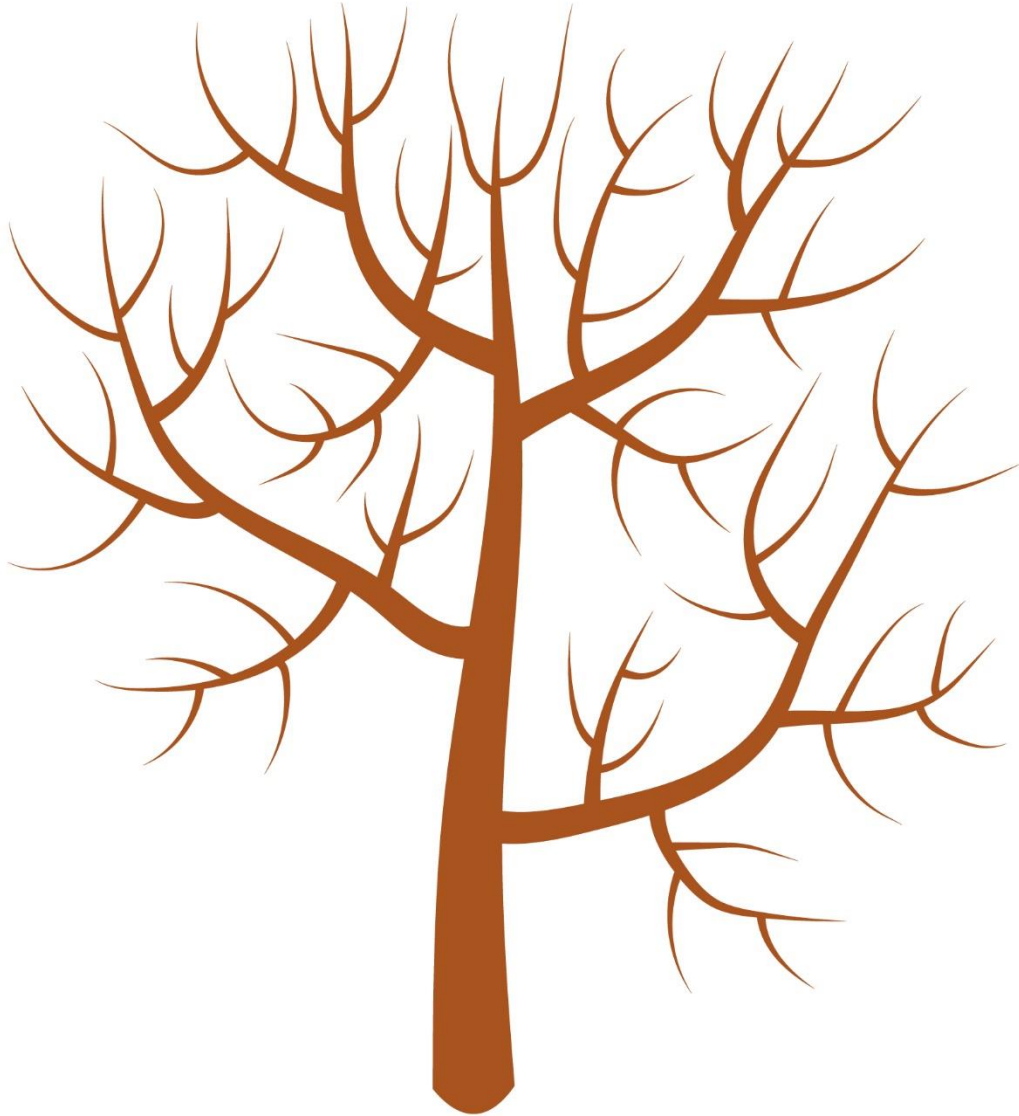
colder temperature



An Apple Tree in Fall



An Apple Tree in Winter



An Apple Tree in Spring



An Apple Tree in Summer

