

Seasonal Snapshot

WATCH THE VIDEO

Show students the "Seasonal Snapshot" electronic video, read by School Programs Instructor, Carmen Buchanan (7 mins. via unlisted YouTube link provided prior to visit).

The video is a short story highlighting the changing elements of each season beginning with the season being currently observed.

TALK ABOUT IT

While viewing the video, pause, discuss and predict what happens and what will happen in each season and the next. Ask students to compare and contrast the weather between two different seasons, asking:

- how is the weather different in winter compared to spring or
- how is the weather the same in spring and summer?

Get UP and Get OUT

- Take your children on a walk around the school property observing the signs of seasonal changes.
- Encourage students to collect a few safe, tangible items that are signs of the current season.

CREATE

Using the items found, have students create a seasonal class collage. This could be a temporary collage in a patch of grass (be sure to take pictures :) or one made by gluing items to construction paper once you have returned to class.

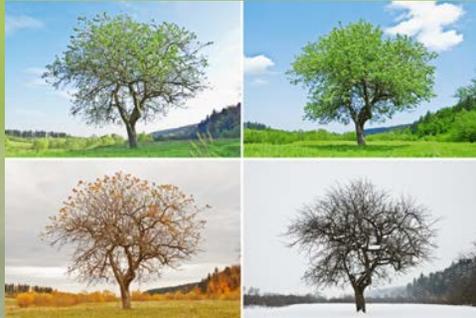
Wouldn't it be fun to make a new class collage for each season?!



PRE-VISIT



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN



POST-VISIT

PICK-A-PLANT

If possible, at the beginning of the school year, select a tree, shrub or wildflower that is easily accessible on school grounds. Try to choose a specimen that will show significant change during each of the seasons that it will be observed.

Once chosen, "introduce" students to the class tree, shrub or wildflower that they will be observing. During this introduction, discuss that their plant has roots, a stem or trunk, branches, leaves, etc.

Ask students to brainstorm words that describe how this particular plant looks like during the current season and write them on chart paper to be displayed throughout the school year.

PAINT-A-PLANT

Provide paint (or crayons, markers, colored pencils) to the students to allow them to draw the plant that is being observed.

- *Guide students with the descriptive words they brainstormed for the first activity so that their plant shows the details of what the particular season they are portraying .*
- *For example: If observing a tree in the fall, talk about the color of leaves that are currently on the tree. If in winter, discuss the lack of leaves on the tree.*
- *Repeat the lesson over the course of the school year and refer to the previous seasons drawings to discuss changes the plant has gone through throughout the year*
- *Students work can be displayed or kept in individual journals and kept throughout the year.*

POT-A-PLANT

- *Schools are given the option to conduct Pot-a-Plant at MBG or at their school.*
- *If planting at school, follow the instructions on the greenhouse planting bags.*
- *Students will be planting basil or radish seeds. The seeds tend to germinate during the spring, but if the students start off their seeds inside, they will bloom sooner.*

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