

Seasons

Learning aims:

- Understand the seasons of the year in the UK
- Identify some countries that do not experience the same seasonality as the UK
- Discover how plants and animals adapt to different seasons
- Explore some seasonal plants and animals

Activity 1: Seasons

Discuss the **four seasons** with your class. Encourage them to think about how the **weather** changes, how they like to spend time in this season and what they think they would see if they went outside. Discuss some **other countries** that do not experience the same seasonality as we do. For example, equatorial Asian countries which experience **"wet" and "dry"** seasons but do not have snow.

Now challenge your students to think about **why we have seasonality**, and explain how the tilt and position of the Earth compared to the sun creates these effects. Use a **ball and a torch** (or a globe if you have one!) to demonstrate where shadows fall and how daylight hours impact temperature.

Activity 2: Adaptations

Map out the standard **life cycle of a plant** during a British year. Challenge students to think about why plants may lose their leaves or become dormant. Do they think it is a coincidence that pollinators such as bees and butterflies arrive at the same time as flowers appear on plants? What might encourage both of these events to happen?

Discuss what **animals** you are likely to see at different times of the year. Do your class know where some animals go during the winter? You can refer to our **"Cosy Critters"** activity plan to help with understanding hibernation. How do some animals survive the winter, and how do some cope with extreme sunshine, or lots of rain?

Activity 3: Explore the Seasons

Encourage your class to **explore** the school grounds, looking for **signs** of the different seasons. They should try to recognise both plant and animal life.

Expand your knowledge of these plants by finding out **what is edible** and what isn't! You could be more adventurous and try brewing some **nettle tea**, or making **bramble jelly**. Alternatively, try to research **seasonal fruit and veg** for the students to try - you could even create a **calendar** for which food plants are good at different times of the year.

*Additional Activity: Challenge your class to pick their **favourite British animal** and write a story about a year in their life.*