

Seasonal Changes: Trees and Animals in Winter

Concepts and Objectives

- Trees grow and change through the seasons.
- Animals depend on trees to survive (especially in winter).



SOLs covered: Science - 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7; Math - 1.1

Activities

Trees:

1. Identify trees in the schoolyard. What trees have you gotten to know (Dogwood, Holly, Evergreens, etc)?
2. Trees are important because they provide shade, wood, homes, and oxygen.

A Tree Through the Seasons:

1. Can you name the seasons? Which is it now? Which comes next . . . back to present.
2. In what season do trees grow fastest? (spring) Pretend you are a tree, it is winter, what are you doing? (sleeping). It's spring (grow, grow, grow!).
3. Look at a section of a tree. What do these rings tell you? (how old it was when it was cut down). Dark rings are spring growth; light are summer. Shows how the tree grew and changed through the years. Let's count how old it is.

Ways that Animals Use Trees:

1. Gall - what is it? Who uses it (wasps and flies lay their eggs, the tree grows around it to protect the insect during the winter).

2. Bird nest - birds use trees to create a protective home to raise their young. Look for them during winter when they're easy to spot.
3. Seed , nuts - seed pods are where the seeds sleep and are for food for animals. Pine cones, nuts, and seeds are important to animals in winter when food is scarce.
4. Feel the different seed coatings and describe them.

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