

LE 1.D What is the current season?

Activity Purpose

What is the current season? How do you know? In this activity, you will take a walk to find evidence of the current season. You will find evidence by making observations using your five senses. You can use the two-page template provided for this activity, or make your own template on blank sheets of paper, and use it to write and draw observations and questions.

Activity Overview

As a family, decide where you want to go for a walk to look for evidence of the current season.

- Before you take your walk, make a prediction about what season you think it is.
- During your walk:
 - Record observations that are evidence of the current season (what do you hear, smell, and see for example?).
 - Record questions that you have. What do your observations make you wonder about?



What can you do to support learning?

- » The goal of this activity is to think about what evidence your family uses to figure out what season it is. Everyone should offer as many ideas, observations, and questions as they can (instead of there being one “right” answer).
- » If someone is having a hard time making observations, you may ask specific questions like, “What are three things you see that tell you it is [season], and why?” and “What do you hear that tells you it is [season], and why?”
- » Your family can use the questions and wonderings you come up with to support other activities. For example, if your family has questions and wonderings about something you saw, heard, or smelled, you can use those questions as an opportunity to find and watch related videos or read a related book together.

Connecting with other families

- » Ask other family members and friends to engage in this activity too. Then you can share your predictions, records of the weather, observations, and questions. What is similar? What is different? Why might that be? You can share with each other by talking on the phone, and texting or emailing pictures or descriptions of your observations and questions to each other.

NGSS Science Practices Emphasized

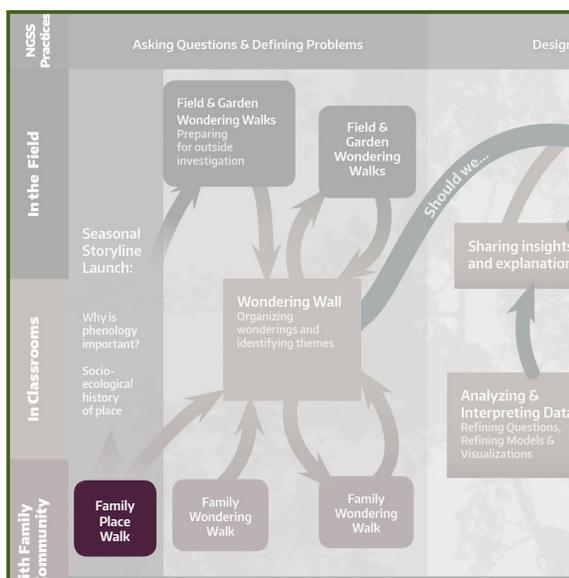
- Asking questions
- Carrying out investigations
- Supporting explanations with evidence

Disciplinary Core Ideas & Important Phenomena

Seasonal patterns

“People use their senses to learn about the world around them. Their eyes detect light, their ears detect sound, and they can feel vibrations by touch.” (K-2; Next Generation Science Standards)

YOUR PLACE IN THE SEASONAL STORYLINE



Key Ideas & Practices

Making Observations

- Practice recording observations. Recording them helps you remember what you observed, and you can revisit your observations at a later time or use them as part of another activity. Young family members can describe their observations or drawings and an adult may write them down. Remember to only feel, smell, and taste if it is safe to use those senses. For example, you do not want family members to feel poison ivy or taste a berry without knowing if it is edible and safe to eat.

Prediction

- A prediction is what someone thinks might happen or what someone thinks is currently taking place (predicting what season it is, for example). A prediction is not a guess; it is based on previous observations, experiences, and knowledge. Predictions can be tested by collecting evidence.

Evidence

- Evidence is information (observations, for example) that helps someone test a prediction or make a case for a claim (what season it is, for example).



CONNECT TO OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Learning Engagement 1.E: Why is this current season important to your family?

LEARNING IN PLACES FRAMEWORKS TO CONSIDER

- Phenology
- Observation and Data Collection



What is the Current Season?

Take a walk with your family and use your senses to find *evidence* of what season it is right now.

Before you take your walk, make a *prediction* by responding to the following question:

What season do we think it is in this place?

After you make your prediction, go outside and start your walk. First, record the weather.

What is the weather during our walk? Circle the picture of the weather (you can circle more than one).



sunny



sun with clouds



cloudy



rainy



windy



snowy



Now make some *observations*. What do you hear as you are walking? What do you see? What do you smell? What does something feel like if you touch it (make sure it is okay to touch!)?

Our observations using our senses...		This makes us wonder about....
In each box, write or draw what you hear , what you touch , what you smell , and what you see .		Now draw or write any questions or wonderings about what you heard, touched, smelled, and saw in this place.
 hearing		
 touch		
 smell		
 sight		
Look back at your prediction about what season it is. What observations did you make that convince you that it is this season you predicted? Or, did your observations convince you that it is another season, and if so, what season do you think it is and why?		

