

How Living Things Change with the Seasons

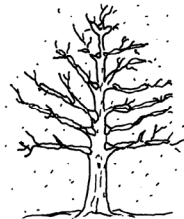
Seasons Change

Plants and animals live in many different environments. When an environment changes, plants and animals must respond to those changes in order to survive.

In many places, the seasons are very different from one another. In some parts of the county, summer can be very warm. Spring might be cool and rainy. Autumn can be cool and dry. Winter might be cool or cold. When the seasons change, plants and animals change the ways they meet their needs, too.

Plants Change

Plants respond to seasonal changes in several ways. Trees are one example. Look at the picture and read about how some trees change with the seasons.



In spring when the weather gets warmer, the tree grows new leaves. By summer, the tree has all of its leaves. It makes lots of food and stores some of it for the cold winter days. The tree loses its leaves in the fall when it gets cooler. In the winter when it is cold and there is not much daylight, the plant rests. It does not make food. It uses the food it stored during the summer.

Some plants only flower in the spring or summer. Rose plants are one example. Like many kinds of flowering plants, rose plants do not have flowers in the cooler winter months. Flower buds form in the spring. In the late spring and summer, rose plants have flowers.



Animals Change

Animals also respond to changes in seasons. For example, the arctic fox has brown fur in the summer and white fur in the winter. In the fox's environment, there is snow in the winter. White fur helps the fox stay safe when there is snow on the ground. This change helps the fox survive when seasons change. In the summer, its brown fur blends into the ground. In the winter, its white fur blends in with the snow.

Hibernation

Other animals **hibernate** to survive when it is cold. In the winter, there is less food in many environments. When an animal hibernates, it is not active. It spends most of its time sleeping. It does not use as much food. Squirrels, snakes, brown bears, and some snakes are all animals that hibernate. Many other kinds of animals hibernate, too. Hibernation is a way animals change with the seasons. It helps them survive.

Migration

Other animals **migrate**, or move to a different place. In the cold winter, animals can have a hard time finding enough food. Migrating to a warmer area helps these animals find food. Many types of

birds, including geese, migrate. Monarch butterflies and humpback whale are two other animals that migrate.



Animals that migrate move back and forth. In the winter they move to a warmer place. In the spring, they go back. Migrating is a way that animals survive when the seasons change.

Student-Response Activity

- 1 Complete the cause-and-effect graphic organizer below. Tell one way a plant or animal changes because of the change from winter to spring.

Cause: The weather gets warmer in spring.	→	Effect:
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Observe this picture, and use it to answer Questions 2–3.



2 Tell how the tree in the picture has changed because of the seasons.

3 Tell how the birds in the picture are responding to a change in seasons.

4 Make a claim about whether an animal would both hibernate and migrate. Use evidence to support your claim, and explain your reasoning.
