

The Seasons of a Forest

Activity Info

Level: junior

Subjects: art, language arts, science, ecology

Duration: one class

Group: divide class into four groups

Setting: classroom; optional field trip

Preparation: art materials including four mural-size pieces of paper or newsprint; pastels, tissue paper, paint, fabric, etc.

Summary

Students will look at the forest through the different seasons.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- recognize and depict the diversity of life in their local forest
- look at the way the forest changes through the different seasons

Background

Forests are more than just trees. They include hundreds of different kinds of shrubs, vines, flowers, mosses, fungi, birds, animals and insects. They may also include areas of rock, exposed soil, creeks, marshes and lakes.

Forests vary region to region.

A forest in the mountains of British Columbia contains many different types of trees, plants, and animals compared to a forest in northern Saskatchewan, southern Ontario or Nova Scotia.



1. OPTIONAL: If you have easy access to a nearby forest or woodlot, take your class for a tour. Ask the students to look at the different features of the forest. What do the trees look like? Do they keep their leaves year-round or do they drop them in the fall? Are there any flowers in bloom? What covers the ground (grasses, mosses, leaf litter, rock)? Do you see any birds and animals, or signs of them in the forest?

2. In the classroom, discuss your visit to the forest or draw on the students' own experiences to discuss the forests or woodlands in your area. Who lives in the forest (squirrels, birds, deer, foxes)? How do they use the forest (for a nest or den, for food)?

3. Discuss what the forest would be like at different times of the year. Use **The Seasons of a Forest** activity sheet (page 32) to make a list of words and phrases to describe the forest and its inhabitants during each season. What would you feel? What would the weather be like? What sounds would you hear?

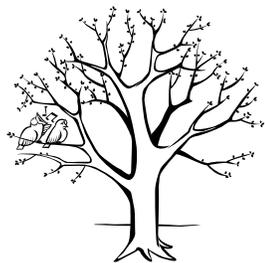
4. Divide the class into four groups and ask each group to create a mural of one of the four seasons in the forest.



The Seasons of a Forest



Write descriptive words and phrases, weather and sounds for each season. What do you feel?



spring



summer



fall



winter

