

Kindergarten Grade / Winter Walk / At A Glance

Plants and Seasonal Changes ⌚ 30 minutes

Goals

- Use the four senses to observe and describe seasonal changes
- Discover how plants and animals change seasonally
- Explore plant parts: roots, stem, leaves, flowers and seeds

Using the Four Senses

⌚ 3 minutes

- Sight: *What has changed since fall? Are there as many colors? Does the sun shining as many hours during the day or is it dark earlier? What happens to water when it gets very cold? Are there any rain puddles today? Did you see ice and snow in the fall? What is snow and ice?*
- Sound: (Have children close eyes for 20-30 seconds) *what does winter sound like? Does the schoolyard sound different than fall?*
- Smell: *What can you **smell**?*
- Touch: *How does your skin **feel**? Is the air colder?*

Explore Plant Parts

⌚ 5 minutes

- *How do you think the cold affects the plants? Is the ground hard? What happens to roots? Where are all the seeds we saw in the fall? Are the leaves still on the trees? What happens to stem?*

Observe Snow and Ice [If snow is absent spend more time on other activities]

⌚ 5 minutes

- *Does snow crunch when you walk on it? Does it stick together to make a snowball?*
- *What makes snow sticky? Have the students put snow on their hand and watch it melt. Why is it melting?*
- Put snow on black paper and observe with magnifying glass. *What do you notice (Color, shape, melting)?*
- Find liquid water. *What will happen to this water when it gets cold?*
- Dig with trowel under the snow. *What is underneath the snow? Is there grass? Can you dig into the ground? Is it too hard? Why? Can plants use frozen water?*

Tree Growth (Spruce, Pine tree in Forest, Sugar maple)

⌚ 7 minutes

- Do Trees grow bigger every year? Why do you think so? Trees grow in circular pattern (trunk) around stem and from tip (branches).
- Look at maple tree bud: *Is this a plant part? What will happen to the buds? Why? How can you find out? Show leaf scars on branch: Can you find another line circling the branch like a bracelet? Compare different tree buds.*
- Show how to age white pine. *Who is older: you or the white pine? Who grew more last year: you or the white pine?*

Signs of Animals [Note: if snow is absent spend more time on other activities]

⌚ 7 minutes

- Observe tracks: *Size of animal? How many legs? Direction? Claws? Size? How fast was it going? What could it be? Show squirrel vs. rabbit tracks*
- Preserve the animal tracks for other groups – draw circle around it.
- Look for scat, squirrel nests, bird nests, and mouse tunnels

Wrap up

⌚ 3 minutes

- *What did you discover about winter? What changed?*