

## A4. An Intro to Seasons

### An Intro To Seasons

Our planet experiences different seasons throughout the year. Each season brings its own unique weather and changes in nature. Let's explore the four seasons—spring, summer, fall, and winter—and learn about the fascinating concepts of hibernation and migrations that occur during these times.



Y. Chaki, *The Four Seasons*, oil on canvas 11 ft x 22 ft, 1988: Royal Bank of Canada

### Spring

Spring is a wonderful season when everything comes back to life after the cold winter months. As the weather gets warmer, you'll notice flowers blooming, trees sprouting new leaves, and animals becoming more active. Birds start building their nests, and you might even spot baby animals like chicks, bunnies, and fawns.

### Summer

Summer is a season of fun in the sun! The days are longer, and the weather is hot. It's a perfect time to go to the beach, have a picnic, or play in the sprinklers. Many fruits and vegetables are ripe for picking, and you'll see butterflies fluttering around colorful flowers.

### Fall

Fall, also known as autumn, is a beautiful season of change. The leaves on trees turn vibrant colors like red, orange, and yellow before falling to the ground. It's a great time to go for a nature walk and collect leaves. Fall is also when many animals start preparing for winter by gathering food.

### **Winter**

Winter is a season of snow and cold temperatures. Some places even get to experience magical snowfall, turning the world into a winter wonderland. Animals like squirrels and bears start hibernating during this time, while birds that can't find food migrate to warmer places.

### **Hibernation**

Hibernation is a special adaptation some animals have to survive the cold winter months. During hibernation, these animals go into a deep sleep and stay in their cozy dens or burrows. Their heart rate and breathing slow down, and they use stored fat for energy. Some hibernating animals include bears, groundhogs, and bats.

### **Migrations**

Migration is the movement of animals from one place to another, usually to find better food or weather conditions. Many birds migrate during winter when it gets too cold to find food. They fly long distances to warmer areas where there's plenty of food. Some famous migrating birds are geese and monarch butterflies.

### **Why Seasons Are Important**

The changing of seasons is essential for the environment and all living things:

- Seasons affect plant growth. Spring and summer provide the right conditions for plants to grow and produce fruits, seeds, and flowers.
- Animals depend on the seasons for finding food. Some animals store food during the abundance of summer and fall to survive through the scarcity of winter.
- Seasons also influence the water cycle, affecting rainfall and snowfall patterns.
- Seasons also give us a chance to enjoy different activities and celebrations. For example, we celebrate holidays like Thanksgiving in the fall and Christmas in winter.

So, next time you experience a change in weather or see animals preparing for different seasons, remember how amazing and important these natural cycles are for life on Earth.

1. Which season is known for birds building nests and baby animals being born?
  - A) Spring
  - B) Summer
  - C) Fall
  - D) Winter



2. What do we call the season with longer days and hot weather?
  - A) Spring
  - B) Summer
  - C) Fall
  - D) Winter
3. What happens to the leaves on trees during the fall season?
  - A) They turn vibrant colors and fall to the ground.
  - B) They bloom with colorful flowers.
  - C) They stay green all year round.
  - D) They disappear and don't grow back until spring.
4. What do animals like bears and groundhogs do during hibernation?
  - A) They gather food for the winter.
  - B) They go into a deep sleep and stay in their cozy dens or burrows.
  - C) They migrate to warmer places.
  - D) They build nests for their babies.
5. What is migration?
  - A) The movement of animals to find better food or weather conditions.
  - B) The change in weather during different seasons.
  - C) The adaptation of animals to survive winter.
  - D) The process of animals hibernating during winter.
6. Which animals hibernate during winter?
  - A) Birds
  - B) Geese
  - C) Bears
  - D) Butterflies
7. Why are seasons important for plant growth?
  - A) They provide the right conditions for plants to grow and produce fruits, seeds, and flowers.
  - B) They make the plants go into hibernation.
  - C) They cause the leaves on trees to turn vibrant colors.
  - D) They help animals find food.
8. What do some animals do during fall to prepare for winter?
  - A) They build nests.
  - B) They gather food.
  - C) They hibernate.

- D) They migrate to warmer places.
9. Which season is known for snow and cold temperatures?
- A) Spring
  - B) Summer
  - C) Fall
  - D) Winter
10. How do animals use stored fat during hibernation?
- A) They fly long distances to warmer areas.
  - B) They use it to build nests.
  - C) They use it for energy while they sleep.
  - D) They gather food for the winter.

## ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. A) Spring.
  - The passage mentions that spring is known for birds building nests and baby animals being born.
2. B) Summer.
  - The passage describes summer as the season with longer days and hot weather.
3. A) They turn vibrant colors and fall to the ground.
  - The passage explains what happens to the leaves on trees during the fall season.
4. B) They go into a deep sleep and stay in their cozy dens or burrows.
  - The passage explains what animals like bears and groundhogs do during hibernation.
5. A) The movement of animals to find better food or weather conditions.
  - The passage defines migration as the movement of animals to find better food or weather conditions.
6. C) Bears.
  - The passage mentions that bears hibernate during winter.
7. A) They provide the right conditions for plants to grow and produce fruits, seeds, and flowers.
  - The passage explains that seasons are important for plant growth because they provide the right conditions for plants to grow and produce fruits, seeds, and flowers.
8. B) They gather food.
  - The passage mentions that some animals gather food during fall to prepare for winter.
9. D) Winter.
  - The passage describes winter as the season of snow and cold temperatures.
10. C) They use it for energy while they sleep.
  - The passage explains that animals use stored fat for energy during hibernation while they sleep.