

# Changing Trees

---

## **Standards of Learning**

Science: K.9, 1.7, 2.4, 2.7, 3.8

English: K.1, K.3, K.5, K.6, K.8, 1.1, 1.5, 1.8, 2.1, 2.3, 2.7, 3.1, 3.4

## **Objective**

Students will:

- Listen to/read a fiction book and respond by describing, pictorially, the changes a tree undergoes during the seasons.

## **Materials**

- The Year at Maple Hill Farm, by Alice and Martin Provensen
- white paper
- crayons/markers
- tissue paper (cut into small pieces), various colors
- cotton balls
- glue

## **Background Knowledge**

This book will introduce students to the work involved on a farm all year round. Additionally, it details the changes that plants and animals undergo as the seasons change over the course of a year. This lesson will focus on how trees change.

## **Procedure**

1. Read aloud, or have your students read, The Year at Maple Hill Farm.
2. Pass out a piece of white paper to each student. Have them fold it to divide it into four squares. Draw lines on the creases.
3. Instruct students to write the names of the seasons in the squares (one per square). Make sure the students know the seasons go in some type of order to demonstrate a cycle.
4. Have students draw the trunk of a tree in each section (for younger students you might provide them with a worksheet with the tree trunks already drawn in each quadrant). Tell them that they will be using tissue paper, cotton balls, and markers to fill in the tops of the trees.
5. They may use cotton balls for snow in the winter, various colors of tissue paper for fall leaves, and green tissue paper for spring and summer trees (you may use a lighter color of green for spring leaves to signify new leaves). *If materials are unavailable you may have students use crayons rather than tissue paper and cotton balls. light green = spring; dark green = summer; red/orange/yellow = fall; no leaves or white crayon for snow = winter*

## **Extension**

Have students label the parts of the tree (leaves, branches, roots, and trunk).

Discuss the benefits of trees (provide habitats and clean air).

