

Farming for all Seasons

Standards of Learning

Science K.6, K.7, K.9, 1.5, 1.7, 2.5, 2.7

Objective

Students will:

- Describe the seasonal changes and their effect on plants and animals
- Compare and contrast the response of plants and animals to weather

Materials

- *Farming* by Gail Gibbons
- Large white paper plates (one for each student)
- Markers
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Symbol templates (handouts provided)
- Hole punch

Background Knowledge

This lesson focuses on the changing of seasons on a farm. Each season's characteristics affect the different chores that must be done around the farm. When the seasons change, changes occur in nature and in people's chores. Some chores on the farm, like milking the cows, are done all year long. The change of the seasons is important for farmers because this change allows them to do different chores each season. The change of the seasons is also important because different things in nature occur each season.

Procedure

1. Ask the students the following questions:
 - What is your favorite season?
 - Why is it your favorite season?
 - What are some of the ways you recognize your favorite season?
2. Tell the students that during different seasons, there are different things to do, especially for a farmer.
3. Read the book, *Farming*, aloud to the class.
4. After reading page 11, show the students pages 4-5 and 10-11 for comparison.
5. Ask them: What is different about the field during the spring (p. 5) and the field during the summer (p. 11)?
6. After reading page 17, show the students pages 10-11 and 16-17 for comparison.
7. Ask them: What is different about the trees during the summer (p. 11) and the trees during the fall (p. 17)?
8. After reading page 25, ask the students: Why do you think there are fewer chores in the winter than in the other seasons?
9. After completing the book, ask the students: What was one chore that was done all year long?



- Why can this chore be done all year long?
10. Ask them: How were the chores affected by the changing seasons?
 11. After discussion, hand each student a paper plate.
 12. Put out markers, scissors, and construction paper.
 13. Ask the students to divide their paper plate into four equal sections with a marker.
 14. Tell them to label each section with a different season: spring, summer, fall, and winter. *(They will also be drawing pictures in each section, so the season should not be written in very large print.)*
 15. Ask the students to think about some of the things which occurred in nature or were done on the farm during each season.
 16. Tell the students to draw and color pictures of these things in the correct section on their plates. They should also write what each picture represents.
 17. After the pictures are drawn, ask the students to cut the following symbols out of construction paper: flower, sun, leaf, and snowflake. These symbols will represent the four seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter.
 18. Once these symbols are cut out, help the students punch four holes around the outside of the plate (one hole in each section) and a hole in each of their symbols.
 19. Then give each student four pieces of yarn and tell them to tie a piece of yarn from the plate to the corresponding symbol.
 20. After the symbols are attached, help the students tie another piece of yarn to each hole. These pieces will be pulled to the back of the plate so the mobiles can be hung from the ceiling.
 21. Ask the students the following questions:
 - Do the chores on the farm change as the seasons change?
 - Why must this happen?
 - Do you think it would be better for farmers if the weather was the same all year round with no change in seasons?
 - Why or why not?
 - How do your chores or activities change throughout the seasons?

Extension

Ask your students to compare the chores/activities they do in each season to the chores/activities done on a farm in each season.

References

All about Coloring. www.coloring.ws/

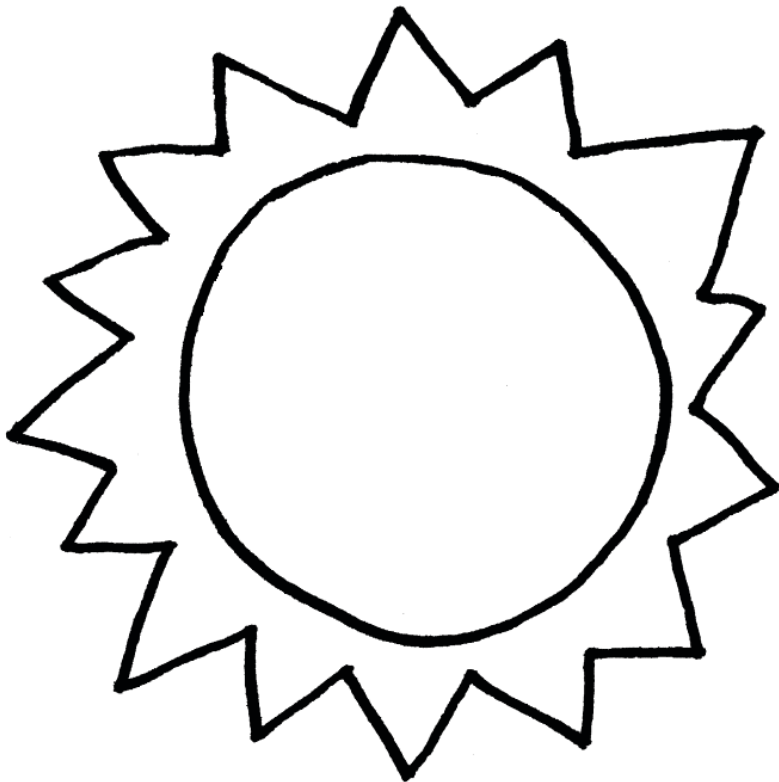
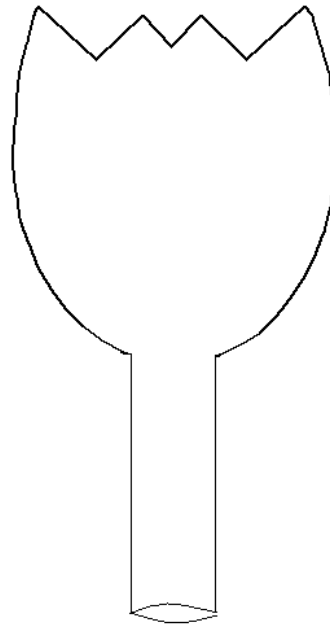
Gibbons, G. (1988). *Farming*. New York, NY: Holiday House.
ISBN: 0-8234-0797-7

Paper plate activity adapted from the Illinois Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom website, www.agintheclassroom.org.



Symbol

Templates



Symbol Templates

