

Science Story Adventures



Winter Plants

Learning outcomes

- » Different types of plants and animals inhabit the earth. (Kindergarten - Life Sciences)
- » Students know how to observe and describe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of plants. (Kindergarten - Life sciences).
- » Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences).

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Paperwhite by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

Night Tree by Eve Bunting

Activities we did

- » We looked at the fruits of different plants that can grow in winter, such as many root vegetables.
- » We looked at leaves from deciduous and coniferous trees and talked about how each kind of tree is adapted to surviving the winter.
- » We looked at a plant bulb and talked about how it grows into a plant.
- » We talked about and looked at examples of different plants associated with various winter holidays.

Today's craft: Handprint Wreath



You will need:

- » Green construction paper
- » Red construction paper
- » Scissors
- » Glue
- » Pencil

Directions:

1. On 2 folded sheets, draw around your hand and cut it out. You need 8 hands in all.
2. Make hands into wreath shape, with wrists facing into the center and overlapping. Then, glue them together.
3. Draw and cut out a red bow and berries using the red construction paper. Decorate your wreath with these.

Adapted from <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/christmas/handwreath/>

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing the Trees by Jim Arnosky. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QK475.8 .A76 1992

Describes the different characteristics of many kinds of trees.

How do Apples Grow? by Betsy Maestro. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QK827 .M33 1992

Describes the life cycle of an apple tree as it changes throughout the seasons.

How Leaves Change by Sylvia A. Johnson. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QK649 .J64 1986

Describes changes and causes of the seasonal cycle of trees.

Photosynthesis : Changing Sunlight into Food by Bobbie Kalman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QK882 K34 2005

Has a section on winter plants, placing this season in context within the processes of photosynthesis.

DVDs

Life. Nat. Ctr. Media QH501 .L55 2010, pt. 4

The episode *Plants* from this series focuses on the many ways plants have evolved to adapt in a variety of environments from the dragon's blood tree found in rocky deserts to Minnesotan hardwoods surviving harsh winters.

Websites

Christmas Trees & More

Tree facts, types, traditions and farms.

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/trees/facts.cfm>

My First Garden

A how-to site for kids who want to start their first garden.

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/firstgarden/basics/index.cfm>

Winter: Dreaming about Gardening

Gardening-related activities, as well as book recommendations, for winter time.

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/archives/garden/seasons/winter.html>

World Biomes: Taiga and Temperate Forest

Describes the different adaptations for winter and other seasons of animals and plants in each biome.

<http://kids.nceas.ucsb.edu/biomes/taiga.html>

<http://kids.nceas.ucsb.edu/biomes/temperateforest.html>