



Autumn Grades 3 - 5

*This lesson is written to be completed independently
and is recommended for children in grades 3-5.*

In this Lesson Plan, children and adults will learn about the season of autumn by listening to and reading books, cooking seasonal food, exploring online resources, and creating an open-ended autumn themed project. This Lesson can be simplified or made more complicated as desired.

This lesson contains activities that have been connected to Missouri Learning Standards using the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines. Although these lessons have been connected to a state learning standard, they are not intended to replace the educational curriculum provided through public, private, or at-home learning.

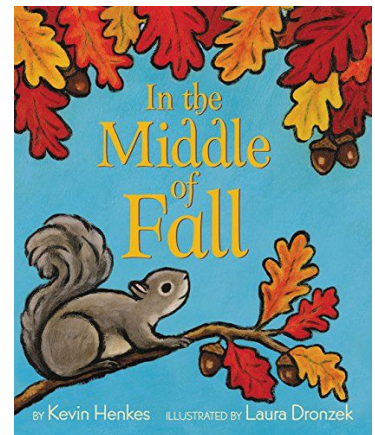
To access videos and databases, click on the hyperlinked text in the lesson plan. An active Christian County Library card is necessary to access select activities. For help, email youthservices@christiancountylibrary.org or call your local community branch.

1. Introduction to the Lesson

- a. [Listen to a library staff member introduce the lesson.](#)
- b. Print out the documents and handouts to have ready for the lesson and gather any needed supplies.
- c. Using Handout A, write and draw your favorite things about autumn. Does your family have any special fall traditions? Do you do anything fun with your friends to celebrate? What things remind you of Autumn?
 - i. DESE Standard: Listen for a purpose 1.A.a; Writing 2.A.b,c.; Social Studies: Knowledge of relationships of the individual and groups of institutions and cultural traditions 6.D;

2. Listen and Write Art Analysis

- a. Listen to a library staff member read [“In the Middle of Fall” by Kevin Henkes](#)
 - i. Writing Prompt: The illustrator, Laura Dronzek, does an excellent job of evoking the feel of autumn in the pictures of this book. Using Handout B, analyze her art. Look closely and consider things such as lines and colors and her choices of creatures and clothing. How does she use these elements to make it feel like autumn instead of another season? Is there anything else you notice?
 - ii. DESE Standard: Speaking/Listening 1.A.a; Writing 1.A.a., 1.B.b.



3. Science of the Seasons

- a. Why do we have seasons? From the [Library's Research Page](#), scroll down and click on "Tumblebooks." Enter your library card and click the magnifying glass next to "TumbleSearch" in the upper right hand corner. Using the "Search By Subject" option on the search screen, search "Fall." The second result is a short video called "The Seasonal Cycle." Watch this and come back.

- i. Discussion: Did you know seasons are reversed in the southern hemisphere before watching this video? (The United States is in the northern hemisphere.) Imagine you are in Australia right now, which is in the southern hemisphere. What is the weather like there? Is it different or similar to the weather here in the United States? If you need help, do some research on when the different seasons occur in Australia.
- ii. Optional: Act out, play pretend, make a video, or write a story about someone in Australia experiencing Autumn in March, April, and May.
- iii. DESE Standard: Science 3.ESS2.D.2; Writing 1.A.a; Reading 3.C.c.

4. Pumpkin Fun!

- a. Watch this [timelapse](#) of a 1,223 pound pumpkin on YouTube. Then, make some observations: What did you learn about how pumpkins grow? What stages did the pumpkin go through? What did the gardeners do to care for the pumpkins? Did anything surprise you?
 - i. DESE Standard: Science 3.LS1.B.1; Writing 2.B.c
- b. Optional: Believe it or not, 1,223 pounds does not even come close to setting the record for heaviest pumpkin ever! Explore a couple of these wild [Guinness World Records](#) related to pumpkins. You will find everything from the heaviest pumpkin, to the most pumpkins smashed in a minute, to the longest journey by pumpkin boat, and more.
 - i. Discussion: Which record was the most interesting to you and why? Which record surprised you the most? If you could break any pumpkin record, which one would you break and why?
 - ii. DESE Standard: Writing 2.B.c., Reading 3.A.b.c.d

5. STEAM Activity

- a. Gather at least three different kinds of fall leaves! If you don't have any leaves around your home, visit your local park.
 - i. Discussion: What do you notice? Are the shapes of the leaves different? How so? Can you guess what kind of tree each leaf came from? Are the colors different? Why do you think leaves turn different colors in the fall?
- b. Find out answers to some of these questions using the online resource [EBSCO Ebooks](#). Using this resource, found through the Library's Research Page, search "leaves change color" in the EBSCO Ebooks search bar. One of the results is a video by Twig Education called "Why Do Leaves Change Color?" Before you watch the video, discuss what grapes and carrots might have in common with colorful autumn leaves. Then watch the video to see the correct answer.
- c. Next do one (or both!) of the following to identify your leaves:
 - i. Download a leaf identification app on your device. "Plant Identify" and "PlantNet" are two apps available for Android and iOS.
 - ii. Check out a plant identification book from [the library!](#)
 - iii. DESE Standard: Reading 1.C.b., 3.A.b.c.d



6. Craft

- a. Many foods are harvested in autumn. This is why autumn is often associated with large feasts. To celebrate the beauty of the autumn harvest, create your own [Beaded Calico Corn](#) with pony beads and pipe cleaners!
 - i. DESE Standard: Art Strand I Product/Performance 1.D.



7. Get Active!

- a. Get active with at least one of the following activities or invent your own autumn movement!
 - i. Roll down a hill!
 - ii. Take a walk or a hike and admire the fall colors.
 - iii. Rake the leaves in the yard. When they are all in a bunch, jump into the pile!
 - iv. DESE Standard: Dance: Cr1.1.3.a

8. Food Activity

- a. Many apples are harvested in autumn! To celebrate this wonderful season, try making this apple themed recipe from Belgium: [Appelflap](#) or, as we like to call them in English, apple turnovers. To access the recipe, click on “A to Z World Food” from the Library’s Research page and search “appelflap.”
 - i. DESE Standard: Reading 1.B.a.b.f.



9. Story Prompt

- a. Write a story about woodland animals preparing for winter. A handout was not provided for this, because it should be as long or as short as you decide. Whether it will be a one paragraph short story, a full novel, or something in between is up to you! There are a number of different kinds of woodland animals you could include such as squirrels, hedgehogs, foxes, bears, chipmunks, owls, deer, raccoons, and more! It’s your choice!
 - i. DESE Standard: Writing 1.B.a.b.c.d.

10. STEAM Imagination Prompt

- a. Craft, experiment, or engineer something related to Autumn! There are no instructions for this activity. You decide what will happen and what supplies you will use. This is known as “open-ended exploration” and is vital to your creative development. The only rules are: it has to be Autumn themed and you have to use your imagination!
 - i. DESE Standard: Social Studies ETS1.A.

11. Optional Activity

- a. Find a local pumpkin patch or apple orchard and pick your own apples and pumpkins! Too expensive? Don't worry! Make plans to grow your own pumpkin or other fall food next summer. (*Note: Check the Library's free seed library in Spring and pick out your own seeds!)



- i. DESE Standard:
Science 3.LS1.B.1

➤ Explore more! Here are some optional links for more learning and fun!

- [Autumn Leaf Sugar Science](#)
- [Mason Jar Fall Luminaries](#) (Adult Supervision Required)
- [Fall Worksheets and Printables](#)
- [Pumpkin STEM Activities for Fall](#)

➤ Learning Standard

- b. The learning standards attached to each activity can be found at the following links:
 - i. [Missouri Learning Standards/Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(DESE\)](#)

Introduction to the Lesson

Write and draw your favorite things about autumn. Does your family have any special fall traditions? What things remind you of Autumn? Do you do anything fun with your friends to celebrate? (Draw a picture below and write your thoughts on the next page.)

