



Autumn

Grades PreK - 2nd Grade

This Lesson is written to be directed and supervised by a parent or adult and is recommended for children in PreK to 2nd Grade

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.

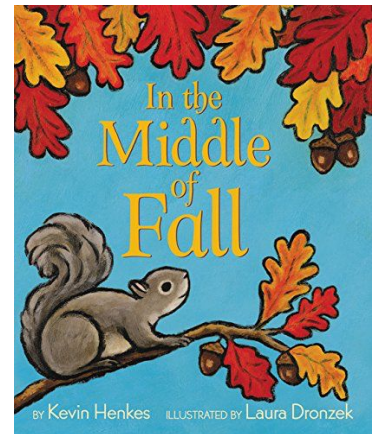
To access videos and databases, click on the hyperlinked text in the lesson plan. An active Christian County Library card is necessary to access select activities. For help, email youthservices@christiancountylibrary.org or call your local community branch.

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/or draw your favorite things about autumn. Does your family have any special fall traditions? What things remind you of Autumn?
 - i. DESE Standard: Speaking/Listening 1.A.c; Reading 2.C.f; Social Studies 6.C

2. Listen and Discuss

- a. Listen to a library staff member read [“In the Middle of Fall” by Kevin Henkes](#)
 - i. Discussion Prompt: What happens in the book that shows it’s fall? Go outside and observe nature. Do you see anything of these things happening where you are? What about in the last few weeks? Have you noticed any other autumn changes occurring?
 - ii. DESE Standard: Listen for a purpose 1.A.a; Reading 1.C.a., 4.A.b



- b. [Optional:](#) 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. 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 K.ESS2.D.1, Writing 1.A.a, 3.A.d.

3. 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 K.LS1.C1, Writing 2.B.b.
- b. Optional: Believe it or not, 1,223 pounds does not set 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: Speaking/Listening 2.A.a, 3.A.a.b.c.

4. 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? Are the colors different? Why do you think leaves turn different colors in the fall?
- b. Find out answers to these questions in the book ["Fall Leaves: Colorful and Crunchy,"](#) available through EBSCO eBooks. Read the book by yourself or with another person!
- 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: Speaking/Listening 2.A.a, 3.A.a.b.c.

5. 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.



6. Get Up and Move!

- a. Using [Explora Elementary](#), perform the action rhyme called “[Scarecrow, Scarecrow.](#)” Say the rhyme and do the actions at least three times. Try to move faster each time.

- i. DESE Standard: Reading 1.B.d.

7. 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.



8. Story Prompt

- a. Make up and tell someone a story about woodland animal friends preparing for winter. 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!

- i. DESE Standard: Speaking/Listening 3.A.c, 4.A.b.

9. 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 K.ESS3.A.1

10. Art Prompt

- a. Create a piece of art including the elements we talked about in this lesson: pumpkins, apples, scarecrows and autumn leaves. You can use paint, crayons, construction paper, or whatever medium sounds fun!

- i. DESE Standard: Art Strand I 1.A.

11. Closing Reflections

- a. Pull Handout A back out and write or discuss the following:
 - i. Look at the first page where you wrote or drew things that reminded you of autumn. How many things from your paper are mentioned in the lesson plan? What is one new thing you learned about autumn from the lesson?
 - ii. DESE Standard: Writing 3.A.d., Speaking/Listening 3.A.a.b.c.

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

- [Why Do Leaves Change Color in the Fall?](#)
- [Pumpkin and Apple Crafts](#)
- [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 or draw your favorite things about autumn. Does your family have any special fall traditions? What things remind you of Autumn?
(Write your thoughts or draw a picture below.)

Reflections

Answer the following questions after you have completed the lesson plan:

How many things on your paper were mentioned in the lesson plan?

What is one new thing you learned about autumn from the lesson?
