

Circle Time Lessons

Unit overview

Day 1 Introduction - Fall/Autumn

Introduce the new unit: **Fall**.

Talk about fall. Show the photos and use the discussion questions.

Fall Fun
Activate Background Knowledge

Objectives:

- The students will describe the fall/autumn season by repeating real photographs.
- The students will use their senses to observe real fall objects and record what they know about fall.
- The students will sort pictures into 2 groups.

Activities:

- Show the photograph posters of fall scenes.
- Ask students what they know about fall.
- Explain that there are 2 words that describe the seasons fall and autumn.
- Sort pictures into 2 groups: Fall or Not Fall.

Extension Idea:
Teach the ABC sign for **Autumn**. Circle some letters, repeat your sentence hand-over-hand, to represent the season falling.

Day 2 Signs of Fall

Talk about the signs of fall and read the poem on a pocket chart.

Signs of Fall
All about things we see in the fall

Objectives:

- The students will practice concept of word and sign sound recognition.
- The students will look for signs of fall.

Activities:

- Show the photograph posters of these 10 fall/autumn seasons.
- Ask students to examine the trees and discuss the differences.
- Read poem "I See Fall."
- Add each of the sentences to the pocket chart. Add the picture cards to help emergent readers remember each line.
- Students take turns pointing to the words in the sentences as the poem is recited together.

Extension Idea:
According to legend, to go on an outdoor field trip (come for families to do together):

Day 3 Leaves and Trees

Look at the photos of trees throughout the seasons of the year. Sing the "Autumn Leaves" song.

Leaves
Investigating leaves

Objectives:

- The students will discuss the differences between trees in each season.
- The students will make a decision and create a graph.
- The students will develop oral language skills through song.

Activities:

- Bring in leaves that have changed color for students to study and investigate. Engage the children in a discussion about why they think leaves change color.
- Take a poll: Which color leaf is your favorite?
- Look at the real pictures of the trees in all of the seasons. Point out the different leaves.
- Sing the song, "Autumn Leaves." Ask the members in the group.

Extension Idea:
Teach the ABC sign for **Leaf**.

Day 4 Things to do in Fall

There are lots of fun things to do in the fall. Sort the pictures.

Activities in the Fall
What do you like to do in fall?

Objectives:

- The students will do alternative activities to do in the fall.
- The students will list the first of a song to develop oral language skills.
- The students will classify pictures into 2 groups.

Activities:

- Sing the song, "Let's go on an Adventure." Use the pocket chart to encourage oral language.
- Sort the pictures into 2 groups: Things to take on a fall picnic, and things not to take.

Extension Idea:
Write to learn: Poetry.

Day 5 Apple Time

Look at pictures of apples growing on a tree. Sing the fingerplay and sort pictures of other fruits that grow on trees.

Apple Time
Exploring apples

Objectives:

- The students will describe the properties of apple trees.
- The students will develop oral language through song.
- The students will sort pictures into 2 groups.

Activities:

- Look at real pictures of apple trees. Ask students what they know about where apples come from.
- Recite poem called "Apple Tree." Use hands to imitate 3 apples in a tree, pretend to shake the tree. Move hands to the ground to simulate the apples falling down. Take a bite from the "apple" then rub stomach.
- Sort pictures into 2 groups: Things that grow on trees and things that do not grow on trees.

Extension Idea:
Teach the ABC sign for **Apple**.

Fall Fun

Activate Background Knowledge

Introduce the new unit (Fall) to the students. Bring in a few items that represent fall (leaves, acorns, apples, pumpkins, or pinecones). Engage in discussion questions.

Objectives:

- The students will describe the fall/autumn season by inspecting real photographs.
- The students will use their senses to observe real fall objects and recall what they know about fall.
- The students will sort pictures into 2 groups.

Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters of fall scenes.
2. Ask students what they know about fall.
3. Explain that there are 2 words that describe the season: fall and autumn.
4. Sort pictures into 2 groups: Fall or Not Fall.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **autumn**. Cross arms, then move your dominant hand down twice, to represent the leaves falling.



Signs of Fall

All about things we see in the fall

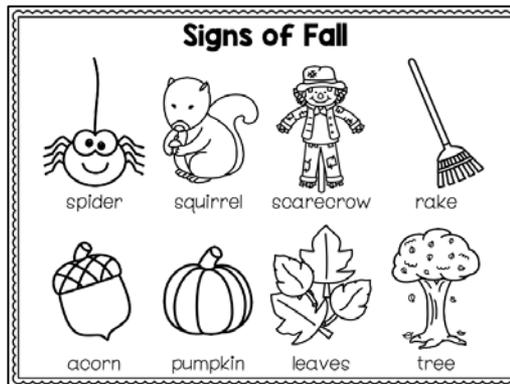
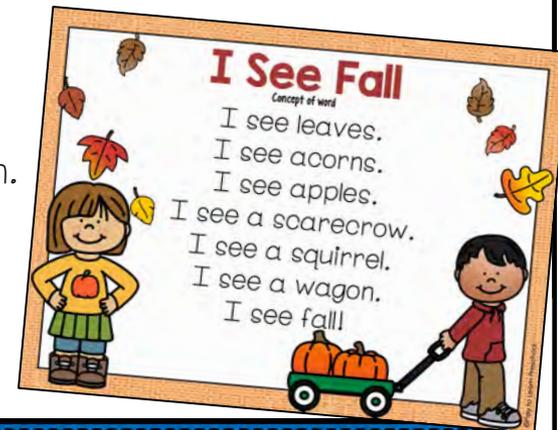
Engage students in a discussion about what happens in the fall. How do we know it's fall?

Objectives:

- The students will practice concept of word and sight word recognition.
- The students will look for signs of fall.

Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters of trees in the different seasons.
2. Ask students to examine the trees and discuss the differences.
3. Read the poem "I See Fall."
4. Add each of the sentences to the pocket chart. Add the picture cards to help emergent readers remember each line.
5. Students take turns pointing to the words in the sentence as the poem is recited together.
6. Use the "Signs of Fall" recording sheet to go on an outdoor scavenger hunt or send it home for families to do together!



Extension Idea:
Teach the ASL sign for **tree**.



Leaves

Investigating leaves

When the season changes from summer to fall, the days get shorter and have less sunshine. The leaves on the trees start to change color and fall from the trees.

Objectives:

- The students will discuss the differences between trees in each season.
- The students will make a decision and create a graph.
- The students will develop oral language skills through song.

Activities:

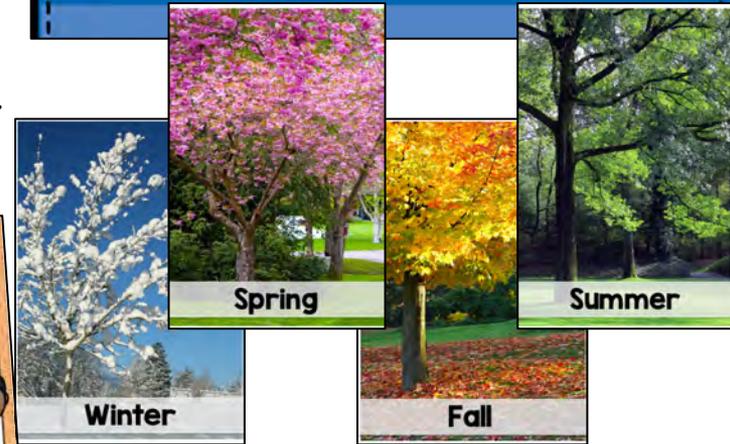
1. Bring in leaves that have changed color for students to study and investigate. Engage the children in a discussion about why they think leaves change color.
2. Take a poll. Which color leaf is your favorite?
3. Look at the real pictures of the trees in all of the seasons. Point out the different leaves.
4. Sing the song, "Autumn Leaves." Act out the motions in the song.

Extension Idea:
Teach the ASL sign for **leaf**.



Which color leaf is your favorite?

 Red	 Orange	 Brown	 Yellow
Sam	Dean	John	Ruby
Charlie		Cas	
Mary			



Activities in the Fall

What do you like to do in fall?

Day 4
lesson
plans

There are so many things to do in the fall when the weather turns cooler.

Objectives:

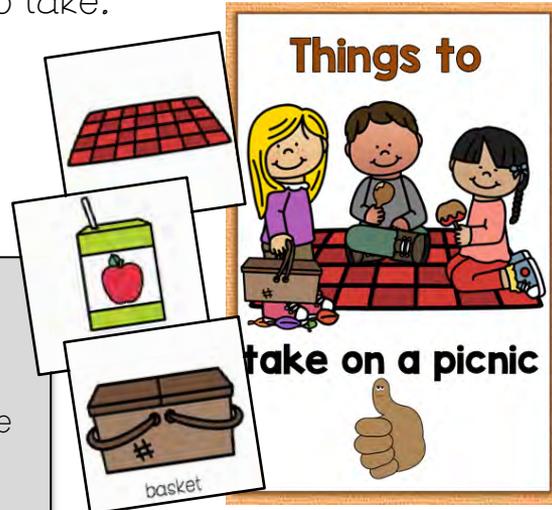
- The students will list different activities to do in the fall.
- The students will repeat the lines of a song to develop oral language skills.
- The students will classify pictures into 2 groups.

Activities:

1. Sing the song "Let's go on an Adventure." Use the prop cards to encourage oral language.
2. Sort the pictures into 2 groups: Things to take on a fall picnic and things not to take.

Extension Idea:

Pack a blanket and take your snack time or lunch outside. Invite the students to observe fall all around them while they enjoy the fresh air!



Apple time

Exploring apples

Day 5
lesson
plans

Apples are a fruit that grow on trees. They can be red, yellow, or green.

Objectives:

- The students will describe the properties of apple trees.
- The students will develop oral language through song.
- The students will sort pictures into 2 groups.

Activities:

1. Look at real pictures of apple trees. Ask students what they know about where apples come from.
2. Recite poem called "Apple Time." Use hands to imitate 2 apples in a tree, pretend to shake the "tree." Move hands to the ground to simulate the apples falling down. Take a bite from the "apple" then rub stomach.
3. Sort pictures into 2 groups: Things that grow on trees and things that do not grow on trees.

Apple Tree

Way up high
In the apple tree,
Two red apples
Smiled down at me!
I shook that tree
As hard as I could.
Down came the apples.
Mmmmm!
They were good.

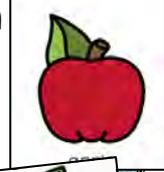
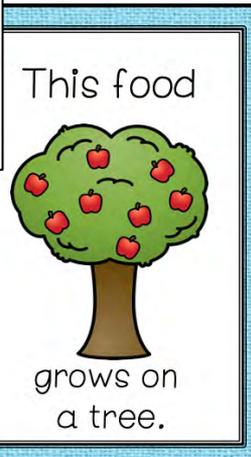
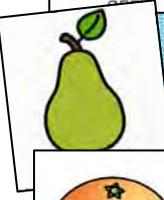
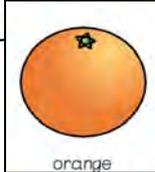


Pick the apples when they are ripe.

Apples grow on trees in an orchard.

Extension Idea:
Teach the ASL sign for **apple**.



 This food	 grows on a tree.
 orange	 does NOT grow on a tree.
	 cheese
	 cookie

Squirrels and Nuts

Squirrely fun

Day 6
lesson
plans

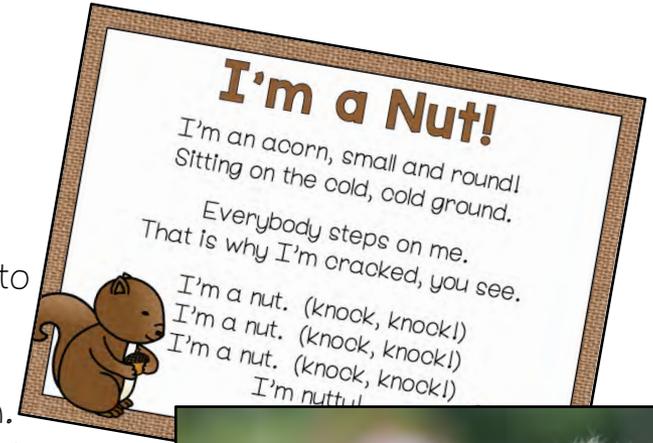
Squirrels are very busy in the fall collecting and burying acorns to prepare for winter.

Objectives:

- The students will develop oral language and rhyming.
- The students will engage in pretend play.

Activities:

1. Sing the song called, "I'm a Nut." Crouch down and pretend to be a nut on the ground.
2. Either print the acorns onto brown paper or print the sheet of colored acorns. Cut apart and hide around the classroom.
3. Recite the poem, "Where are the acorns?" Students pretend to be squirrels and search for the acorns around the room. When all of the acorns have been found, put them in numerical order. Say the numbers together as the students count them.



Extension Idea:
Teach the ASL sign for **squirrel**.



Scarecrows

and crows

Day 7
lesson
plans

Crows like to eat the crops planted in farmers' fields. Farmers put scarecrows in the fields to scare the crows away.

Objective:

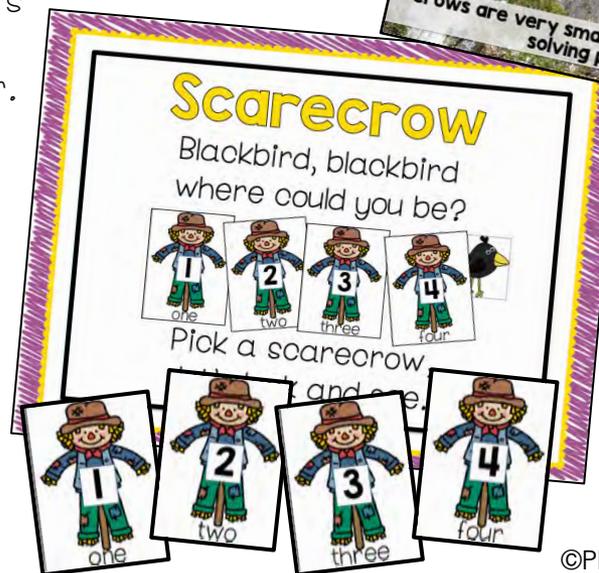
- The students will discuss the purpose of scarecrows.
- The students will develop oral language skills.
- The students will identify the numbers 1-15.

Activity:

1. Look at the real pictures and discuss with students what they know about crows and scarecrows.
2. Play the number identification game called "Scarecrow."

To Play the Game:

- Line up the pictures of the scarecrows. (Numbers 1-15 are included. Pick the right number of cards for your students.) Identify the numbers together.
- Hide the crow under one of the scarecrows and recite the poem to find it.
- Children guess where the crow is hiding by identifying the number.



Extension Idea:

Move like a scarecrow:

- hop on one foot
- jump on two feet
- spin in circles
- gallop around
- march
- stand with your arms out

Pumpkins

Pumpkin fun

Pumpkins are normally orange and grow on long, green vines.

Objectives:

- The students will describe the characteristics of pumpkins.
- The students will develop oral language skills and awareness of rhyming.
- The students will sequence the steps of a recipe.

Activities:

1. Look at the real pictures of pumpkins. Ask the students what they already know about pumpkins.
2. Recite the rhyme called "Time for Pie." Use the picture cards to replace the missing word, adding to the "bowl" and mixing with the spoon to make a pumpkin pie.
3. Use the recipe card to make mini pumpkin pies.



Extension Idea:
Teach the ASL sign for **pumpkin**.



Time for Pie!
Oh me oh my
I'm going to make a pie!

Add the  to the pot
Stir it, stir it, stir it a lot!



Mini Pumpkin Pies

<p>1. Roll out the pie crust.</p> <p>2 pie crusts</p> <p>Roll out the dough</p> <p>Use a cup to cut out the dough to fit in individual muffin pans.</p>	<p>2. Mix sugar and spices.</p> <p>1/2 cup brown sugar</p> <p>1/2 teaspoon cinnamon</p> <p>1/4 teaspoon ginger</p>	<p>3. Add spices and salt.</p> <p>1/4 teaspoon ground cloves</p> <p>1/4 teaspoon nutmeg</p> <p>1/2 teaspoon salt</p>
<p>4. Mix in pumpkin, evaporate milk, and egg.</p> <p>1 (15oz) can pumpkin</p> <p>1/4 cup evaporated milk</p> <p>1 egg</p>	<p>5. Spoon the mixture into mini pie crusts.</p>	<p>6. Bake at 400°F for 10-20 minutes.</p>

Autumn Animals

All about animals

Day 9
lesson
plans

There are many animals that can be seen in the fall: squirrels, raccoons, foxes, owls, skunks, and many more.

Objectives:

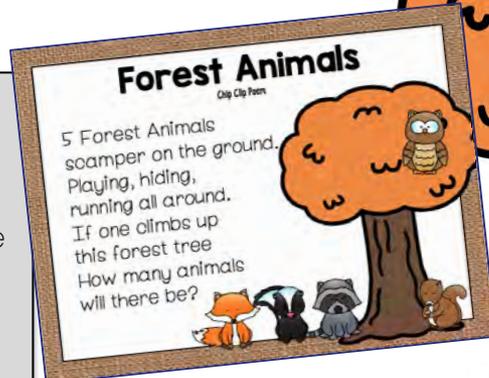
- The students will identify and describe animals using real photographs.
- The students will develop oral language skills.

Activities:

1. Look at the pictures of the forest animals. Discuss with students their knowledge of the different animals. What other animals live in the forest?
2. Recite the chip clip poem "Forest Animals." Remove a clip from the tree as the poem counts down.

Extension Idea:

Create a Fall tree. Use colored paper (red, orange and yellow) and tear pieces of paper for the leaves. Draw a tree trunk and glue the pieces of paper to create a tree.



5 Forest Animals
soamper on the ground.
Playing, hiding,
running all around.
If one climbs up
this forest tree
How many animals
will there be?



Conclusion

Unit Conclusion

To conclude the unit, ask the students to describe what they have learned about fall.

Objectives:

- The students will discuss the things that they have learned about fall.
- The students will choose a favorite thing and create a class graph.
- The students will use logical thinking skills.

Activities:

1. Invite students to list the things they have learned about fall. Write the ideas on index cards or on the leaf shapes provided.
2. Take a poll: "What is your favorite thing to do in the Fall?"
3. Play the fall grid game.

To Play:

1. Create a grid where each column has the same picture and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards.
2. Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card.
3. Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.

What is your favorite thing to do in the Fall?

			
Jamie	Claire	Roger	Brianna
Jenny		Frank	



Which one is missing?

What I love about Fall

<p>What I love about Fall.</p> <p>Go hiking.</p> <p>Name: Gemma</p>	<p>What I love about Fall.</p> <p>Jumping in leaves.</p> <p>Name: Jamie</p>
<p>What I love about Fall.</p> <p>Eating apples.</p> <p>Name: Erin</p>	<p>What I love about Fall.</p> <p>Picking pumpkins.</p> <p>Name: Megan</p>

Center Activities

Centers

- Cutting Practice
- Line Tracing
- Visual Discrimination
- Picture Puzzles
- Word Wall Cards
- Writing Practice
- Color Sorting
- Counting Acorns
- Count & Clip Cards
- Counting Crows
- Leaf Rubbing Book
- Book List (recommendations)

Cutting Practice

Fine Motor Center

Objective: The students will cut along the dotted lines from the bottom of the page to the top.

Procedure: Print a cutting page for each student. Demonstrate proper scissor usage and guide cutting.

Line Tracing

Literacy Center

Objective: The students will trace the dotted lines from left to right to practice fine motor skills.

Procedure: Print and laminate these tracing cards in a plastic sleeve. Provide a dry-erase marker for the student.

Visual Discrimination

Literacy Center

Objective: The students will determine which picture is different from the others.

Procedure: Print out the cards and cut to separate. Students place a mini eraser or other counter on the picture that is different.

Additional Practice: Take the picture book and use the pictures to create a story.

Picture Puzzles

Fine Motor

Objectives: The students will use hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills to assemble a puzzle.

Preparation: Copy each page, mat, and laminate as desired.

Procedure: Students match the puzzle pieces together.

Word Wall Cards

Literacy Center

Use the cards in a pocket chart to make a fall word wall.

Provide pencils, crayons, paper, markers, etc. in the writing center and encourage the students to write letters and words from the wall.

Words: squirrel, wagon

Color Sorting

Math Center

Objectives: The students will sort leaves by their color.

Preparation: Print, laminate and cut out cards.

Procedure: Students place leaves on the matching tree. Practice oral language skills by naming each color.

Colors: Brown, Orange, Red, Yellow

Counting Acorns

Math Center

Objective: The students will use visual discrimination skills to match the friends.

Preparation: Copy the picture cards. Glue the larger pictures (first 2 pages) inside a file folder. Cut and laminate the smaller pictures.

Procedure: Students place matching pictures together.

Counting Acorns Numbers 1-8

Count and Clip Cards

Math Center

Objective: Students will practice one-to-one correspondence and number recognition to 12.

Preparation: Print the cards, mat, laminate and cut apart.

Procedure: Students count the pictures on each card and mark the correct answer with a clothes pin.

Helpful Hint: For easy self-checking, put a sticker on the back that will match the clothes pin if the answer is correct.

Counting Crows

Math Center

Objective: The students identify the numbers 1-10 and count to 10.

Preparation: Print each scarecrow and laminate. Print the crows.

Procedure: Students identify the number on each scarecrow's shirt and the matching number of crows onto its arms.

Leaf Rubbing

Art Center

Objective: Students will collect leaves and make leaf rubbings in fall colors.

Preparation: Print the pages of the book for each student. Do not collate them until the pages are complete.

Procedure: Students collect leaves to make leaf rubbings. Tape the leaf to the back of the page. Provide unsharpened crayons in fall colors and show students how to make a leaf rubbing. When each page is complete, staple them together to make a fall leaf book.

My FALL Leaves

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