



Predictable Seasons - Teacher Notes

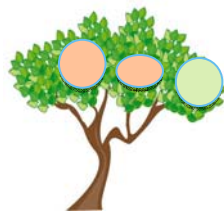
Weather describes short-term day-to-day changes in temperature, rainfall and humidity at a specific location. Seasons however describe long-term changes through the year. About 4.5 billion years ago a large object collided with the Earth. This blasted off some of our planet's surface to create our Moon. The impact also tilted the planet's axis by approximately 23° from vertical. Geographical position and this tilt towards and away from the Sun are responsible for our seasons.

Western Australia is part of a large continent with a variety of climates. It can be very roughly broken into four zones. In the north lies the Kimberley and Broome in a tropical zone with wet and dry seasons. The grasslands to the south of this surround the central desert zone and in the south and southwest lies a temperate zone. These areas have four seasons. Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

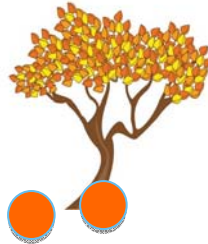
The first sheet is designed for students living in temperate areas and asks them to draw on the trees to show how they would change across four seasons. How they will approach this will depend on the kinds of trees in their local area. If they are near fruiting and deciduous trees they will come up with something similar to our example below. If they are surrounded by Australian native trees (like Eucalypts) their drawings will likely show very little change (except for a period of flowering). Some students may recognise the classic autumn/winter leaf fall from television.



Spring
Sowing season



Summer
Growing season



Autumn
Harvesting season



Winter
Resting season





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Students may visit the school's veggie garden to guess which season they are experiencing now and how the planting of vegetables will change with the change of the seasons.

The second sheet is designed for students living in tropical zones with distinct wet and dry seasons.

The "wet" is also called the monsoon or cyclone season. Intense storms and high winds can cause damage and plans need to be made to prepare for them.



Dry season



After cyclone in wet season

Cyclone Safety

Most schools have their own cyclone plans which you can take your students through.

Most contain the following steps.

1. Prepare before the season starts by tidying away loose materials.
2. Stay inside and keep well clear of windows if there is a cyclone alert.
3. Shelter in the strongest part of the building (hallway, bathroom or cellar).
4. Have prepared emergency kits and plans.

