

Let's Explore Weather and Seasons

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Learning Goals

- Describe how weather changes during the four seasons
- Discuss how weather affects people in a variety of ways

Video Summary

Exploration Segment

The hostess asks viewers how they dress for different kinds of weather. Several children act out a variety of activities and challenge viewers to guess the season during which the activities are taking place. The hostess asks viewers how they play in each season.

Concept Development Segment

Most places on earth have four seasons: winter, spring, summer, and fall. The weather in each season can be very different. The hostess describes what happens to a tree during each of the seasons. She then presents a story about weather.

Application Segment

Some children in a number of scenes challenge viewers to identify the seasons according to the clothing they wear. A teacher and her students explore how their school building works to protect them from changes in the weather. "You Try It" challenges students to draw pictures showing how weather affects their feelings.

Key Words

forecast	a prediction of something in the future, such as weather
forecaster	one who makes forecasts; a "weatherman" or "weather-woman"
season	a period of the year in which weather patterns are distinct from other seasons
weather	the state of the air and atmosphere in regard to how warm or cold, wet or dry, or clear or stormy it is

Let's Do It

- Ask children to describe the clothing they are wearing and discuss what helped them decide how to dress for the day. Ask, *Can you guess what the video is about?*
- Tell students: *Watch this video to see what you can learn about weather and seasons.*
- Begin the tape. Stop/pause it after the segment that introduces and illustrates the four seasons. Ask students if they know what season it is now, and which season comes next. Discuss what kinds of weather occur in each season. Discuss what kinds of activities children can do in today's weather, and why they can't do activities that are more appropriate for other seasons. When finished with the discussions, watch the rest of the video.

You Try It

How does today's weather make you feel? Have children draw pictures that show the day's weather and how it makes them feel. Share the drawings and discuss why our feelings often relate to the weather. As an extension, show children a number of reproductions of paintings that feature weather elements. Talk about how each painting makes the children feel.

More Exploring

Make a chart of the four seasons. Have children write the names of the seasons across large pieces of paper, then cut out pictures that illustrate the weather and human activities typical of each season.

Keep weather calendars. Each day, ask children to observe the relative temperature, kind of precipitation, and extent of cloud cover, and record their observations on a class calendar with symbols they devise. Or measure temperatures, rainfall, and wind speed. (Use a thermometer that measures temperature in color scales; collect rain in a clear glass and measure its depth according to paper clip widths; measure wind speed with an anemometer—see page 31.) Have children compare their records for the month to weather reports printed in newspapers. Discuss how the weather they experience relates to the current season.



Make weather flashcards. Have children cut out magazine photos showing different kinds of weather or ways that trees look in different seasons, then glue the photos to index cards. Show the prepared cards to the class and ask children to identify each season shown.

Read weather maps. Introduce children to the symbols used on weather maps printed in newspapers. Help them track weather systems over several days by noticing changes in the location of symbols on each day's map.

Discuss regional variations in seasons. Compare your region to one where precipitation and temperatures are drastically different. Ask children to imagine how their activities would be different in the other region.

Language arts—Write about the seasons. Ask children to write on their season charts (see above) words that describe each season. With the children working in groups, give them sentences about a season,

then have them use the sentences as the start of stories they must finish. Encourage them to use words from the season charts.

Complete the sentences. Start a sentence such as, "Rain makes me think of (or feel like)..." and have children give endings. Have students complete a variety of sentences about weather or seasons.

Perform weather plays. Provide a collection of old clothing that children can wear as they make up short plays about activities they do in the rain, snow, sunshine, and so on.

Have children use the key words from this lesson to write sentences about weather and seasons.