

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT
ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER**

SCHOOL TOUR: **FABULOUS FALL**

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Grade: **Kindergarten**

Program Length: **1.5 hours**

Focus Concept: *Fall is a time of increased animal activity as they prepare for winter. Different species prepare for winter in different ways.*

OBJECTIVES: Students will

1. Show an awareness of seasonal changes
2. List three basic survival needs of living things
3. Describe how at least one animal prepares for winter

Common Core Standards Correlated

Area	Strand	Standard	Standard Numbers
English Language Arts	Speaking/Listening	Comprehension & Collaboration	K.SL.1,3,6
English Language Arts	Language	Conventions of Standard English	K.L.1

Next Generation Science Standards Correlated

Physical Science	Life Science	Earth & Space Science
	K-LS1-1	K-ESS2-2

Illinois Learning Standards Correlated

Learning Area	Goal	Standard	Benchmark
Science	11	A	Ka
	12	A	Kb
	12	E	Ka
	12	F	K

The activities listed below are intended to provide ideas to be used before or after the field trip. Feel free to adapt activities to match your students' ability level.

SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

1. **Fall Collage:** Have a classroom discussion about the fall season. What is the weather like? How are the plants changing? What are some animals doing? Then ask students to find pictures in magazines and newspapers that show fall changes. Pictures can include trees and leaves in fall colors, people outdoors doing fall activities such as raking leaves, children playing in leaves, birds getting ready to fly south, squirrels gathering nuts, etc. Have students paste all the pictures into a fall collage to display in the classroom or hallway. (Suggested magazines include but are not limited to *Outdoor Illinois*, *Outdoor Photographer*, *National Geographic* and similar nature or birding magazines. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources also has posters available of fall leaves. The poster is free, but they do charge for shipping. You might also print some digital photos you have taken depicting fall.)

2. **Leaf Mobiles:** Have students gather colored leaves that have fallen from trees around school or in their neighborhoods. Press the leaves between sheets of newspaper. When dry, use the leaves to make mobiles to hang in the classroom. Another way to make the mobiles would be to seal the leaves between sheets of clear contact paper, or laminate them, cut around the leaves, and make the mobiles.
3. **Friend for All Seasons:** (From *Keepers of the Earth*. This activity will extend through the entire school year.) Have students choose a plant outside on the school grounds and adopt it as their “Friend for All Seasons”. Students should visit the plant at least twice during each season and observe how it has changed. Have them use all their senses – touch and smell the plant in addition to looking at it. If desired, also record the weather on the day you visit the plant. Then have students record their observations with words or pictures. Have students write descriptions or stories about the plant, or draw pictures. If you have a digital camera available, you could also take pictures of the plant in different seasons and display them in the classroom. After each visit, discuss how the plant has changed. How has the weather changed? Can the students figure out how the changes in the plant and in the weather are related?
4. **Animal Preparation for Winter:** Ask the students to list some of the wild animals that they see in their neighborhoods. How do the students think these animals get ready for winter? Do they see all of these animals in winter, or just some of them? Lead into a discussion of migration and hibernation. Have the class keep a log of animal sightings throughout the school year. Which animals did they see in each season? Where do they think the animals were during times when the students didn’t see them?
5. **Fall Journal:** Have each student keep a journal of signs of the changing seasons. These can be written or be done in picture format. Have students include changes in weather, plants, and animals, and remind them to include changes people make also.
6. **Temperature Watch:** Place a thermometer outside and take a reading from it every day. Record the temperature. If desired, create graphs of the temperature changes, or construct a large thermometer of cardboard and use moveable red ribbon so the students can match the indoor thermometer with the outdoor temperature.
7. **Hidden Colors:** Try this activity so the students can see an “invisible” change of fall and learn that fall colors were hiding in the leaves all summer. Collect two green leaves and tear them into tiny pieces. Place the pieces in a glass jar not more than 6 inches tall, such as a junior size baby food jar. Add enough rubbing alcohol to cover the leaf pieces in the jar. Cut a strip 2” by 6” from a coffee filter, tape it to the middle of a pencil, and lay the pencil across the top of the glass jar. The strip should just touch the rubbing alcohol. When the alcohol has moved half way up the strip – at least an hour – remove the strip and lay it on some paper towels to dry. Then observe the green bands (chlorophyll) and yellow and orange bands (other leaf pigments) on the filter strip. Did the children know the yellow and orange colors were hidden in the green leaf?

VOCABULARY: These words will be used by the educators during the program.

Animals	Seasons
Autumn	Seed
Fall	Spring
Groundhog	Squirrel
Leaf	Survival
Hibernate	Winter
Migrate	Woodchuck
Plants	

RESOURCES

Anthony, Joseph. *In a Nutshell*. Dawn Publications. 1999

Burns, Diane L. *Berries, Nuts, and Seeds*. NorthWord Press. 1996

Carle, Eric. *The Tiny Seed*. Simon & Schuster. 1991

Ehlert, Lois. *Leaf Man*. Harcourt, Inc. 2005

Ehlert, Lois. *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf*. Harcourt Brace & Company. 1991

Gibbons, Gale. *From Seed to Plant*. Holiday House, Inc. 1993

Glaser, Linda. *It's Fall!* The Millbrook Press. 2001

Hawk, Fran. *Count Down to Fall*. Sylvan Dell. 2009

Locker, Thomas. *Sky Tree*. HarperCollinsPublishers. 1995

Stein, David Ezra. *Leaves*. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 2007

Project Learning Tree (To obtain a copy of this curriculum guide, attend a Project Learning Tree workshop or borrow a guide from a colleague who has.)