

Seasons on the Farm

Standards of Learning

Science: K.7, K.9, 1.7, 2.7, 3.8

English: K.1, K.2, K.3, K.6, K.11, 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.9, 2.2, 2.7, 2.8, 3.1, 3.5

Objective

Students will:

- Listen to/read a fiction book and respond by creating a mobile illustrating the seasons on Maple Hill Farm.

Materials

- The Year at Maple Hill Farm, by Alice and Martin Provensen
- hand-held hole punch
- stapler
- tape
- white paper plates (one per student)
- crayons/markers
- scissors
- yarn
- construction paper

Background Knowledge

This book will introduce students to the work involved on a farm all year round. Additionally, it details the changes that plants and animals undergo as the seasons change over the course of a year. Follow up the reading of this book with an engaging activity in which students illustrate the seasons of the farm as they create a mobile.

Procedure

1. Read aloud, or have your students read, The Year at Maple Hill Farm.
2. Discuss the changes that occurred in the book over the year. Have students brainstorm changes that occurred to both plants and animals, as well as changes involving the weather. Write them on the board.
3. Ask students to brainstorm ways that they can illustrate each of the seasons on the farm. Write them on the board.
4. Distribute one paper plate to each student and instruct them to draw lines dividing their plates into four equal sections (if fractions have been introduced to your students, this would be a good time to review!).
5. Assign each segment of the paper plate a season and have the students write the name of that season at the top of that section. Make sure the students understand that the seasons should go in some kind of order that demonstrates a cycle.
6. In each section indicated, have the students draw a picture of what a farm would look like during that season, for a total of four pictures.
7. Next, have the students design a symbol for each of the four seasons using construction paper. Examples include a flower for spring, the sun for summer, a leaf for fall, and a snowman for winter.
8. Have students sketch their symbols and then cut them out. These will dangle from the paper plate to make the lower portion of the mobile.
9. Attach one piece of yarn to the top of the paper plate (to hang the mobiles from the ceiling), then use 4 pieces of yarn to attach the symbols to the proper sections on the plates.
10. Ask students to share their mobiles. Why did they choose to illustrate the seasons the way that they did? Ask the students to explain why they chose particular symbols to represent the seasons.

