

Autumn: Leaves Fall from the Trees!

Grade Level: K - 4

Content Areas: Music, Art, Humanities, Technology, and Language Arts

Time Frame: 40 minutes

MATERIALS

Autumn: Leaves Fall from the Trees! book

Acorn Worksheet

Piece of Brown Construction Paper for Each Student

Scissors

Small, Square Fall Colored Tissue Paper

Glue

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Describe the practices they follow to get ready for the school year.
- Create a list of "resolutions" they will seek to achieve during the new school year.

VOCABULARY:

Key vocabulary

Before reading, focus on vocabulary. Read the glossary words and their definitions.

Crisp - Cool and fresh

Galore - In large numbers

Migrating - Moving from one place to another, usually to find food as the seasons change

Ripe - Ready to pick and eat

Stew - A food made with vegetables and meat and cooked slowly for a long time

Temperature - The measure of how hot or cold something is

FREE SONG

[Click here](#) to download or stream the Autumn: Leaves Fall from the Trees song.

Find other Cantata Learning songs and books at <http://www.cantatalearning.com>.



PROCEDURES/ACTIVITIES

Preparation:

Gather the materials to make the [Acorn Craft](#) and use the [Acorn Worksheet](#) and photocopy the pattern onto brown construction paper. Cut the pattern out. Each student needs one acorn.

Lesson Procedure:

1. Start this lesson by talking about what students and their families do to prepare for the first day of school. Make a list of the ideas the students come up with. Ideas could include shopping for clothes, making lunches, arranging how to get to school and more. Tell students about what you do in order to get ready for the new school year.
2. Tell students the start of a new school year is much like the beginning of Autumn. Everyone is preparing for the start of something new and there are exciting opportunities and things to explore.
3. Talk to students about New Year's resolutions and how people often decide to begin new and healthier practices as they start a new year. Ask students to start thinking about resolutions they want to achieve over the school year.
4. Tell students that you are now going to read a book and listen to music about Autumn. Tell the student to think about all the different changes that are happening throughout the book as you read and they sing along. Read *Autumn: Leaves Fall from the Trees!*.
5. After you are done reading have students name some of the changes they saw in the book and ask them how it relates to the changes they are going through now with the start of a new school year.
6. Tell students they are going to be creating an acorn and they are going to create some of their own resolutions on what they would like to grow and learn this school year.
7. Hand out copies of the cut out acorns and the fall colored tissue paper. Also tell students to get out their glue for this part of the project.
8. Have students crumple the paper and glue it to the top of the cap. Let the acorns dry for a little bit and during this time listen to Autumn again and have students sing along.
9. Next point out the cap on the top of the acorn and explain that you want the students to wear "thinking caps" just like the acorn.
10. Tell students it is now time to write on their acorns what resolutions they have for the year.
11. Example: Mrs. Miller, during this school year I will...
 - be ready to learn.
 - try my best every day.
12. Give students time to create their own lists and help them to record those ideas carefully on the acorns
13. Invite the students to share some ways they want to grow and learn this school year.

Language and Technology Extension:

For a language extension, students can create poetry or short stories using [Storybird](#). Within Storybird, you will find many fall and seasonal type illustrations. These can be published and shared as well.

Also, it is fun for students to create poetry using images, art, and words with apps such as [Adobe Spark](#), [Instant Poetry](#) and [Poetry Creator](#).

Music Extension:

As a music extension to the language and technology extensions above, have students put their poetry to music. They can make up the music or put it to a familiar tune. They can also use the instrumentals to Autumn, which can be found on the Cantata Learning website [here](#).

PE Extension:

Students can go outside and watch the movement of the trees. They can imitate the movement trees make and image what they feel like in the autumn and different seasons throughout the year.

Cooking/Science/Math/Art Extensions:

To tie into the stew within the story, students can make stew or vegetable stew as a class. You can find a recipe (perhaps ask students to bring in their favorites...and parents too), divide the ingredients out, have them bring in the ingredients already cut and ready to be cooked and put them together as a class in the morning in crockpots to cook for lunch. They can work on their measuring and discuss growing food.

This would be a great time to ask parents and others to talk to your students about farming and gardening too.

As an art extension to the cooking project, students can create their own recipe or bring in one for their favorite stew or soup. Have them type the recipe up (or you can too) and print on a piece of paper. The students can decorate the paper around the recipe. You can compile into a classroom cookbook making on for the library or classroom and copies for each to take home. What a perfect fall project as this could be ready for a holiday family gift too.

Standards:

Kindergarten: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.K.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.6, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.1

First Grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.5, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.1.2

Second Grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.8, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.3

Third Grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.6, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.3

Fourth Grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.3

