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The Wonders of Autumn

Autumn, also known as fall, is one of the four seasons and comes after summer and before winter. During this time, the weather becomes cooler, and the landscape changes in beautiful ways. Many people enjoy autumn for its colorful leaves, crisp air, and exciting holidays.

One of the most famous signs of autumn is when the leaves on trees change color. During the summer, leaves are green because they contain a substance called chlorophyll, which helps the tree make food from sunlight. As autumn arrives and the days get shorter, trees get less sunlight, and they begin to slow down their food-making process. The green chlorophyll breaks down and disappears, allowing other colors like yellow, orange, red, and even purple to appear. These colors were in the leaves all along, but they were hidden by the green.

As autumn progresses, many trees drop their leaves. This is the tree's way of saving energy for the winter. Without leaves, trees don't lose as much water and can survive the colder months.



Many trees shed their leaves in winter.

Autumn is an important season for many animals. Some animals, like squirrels, spend their time gathering food to store for the winter. You might see them collecting nuts and acorns to hide in safe places, so they have enough to eat when food is scarce.

Other animals, such as birds, begin to migrate. This means they fly south to warmer areas where they can find food during the winter. Monarch butterflies are one of the best-known migrating species. They travel thousands of miles to escape the cold and find warmth.

Some animals, like bears, prepare for hibernation. They eat as much as they can during autumn to build up fat, which will keep them alive during the winter when they are in a deep sleep.

As summer ends, the temperature in autumn begins to drop. You'll notice that mornings and evenings are cooler, and you might need to wear a jacket. In many places, the first frost of the year happens in autumn, which means the temperature drops below freezing overnight, leaving a layer of ice on the grass in the morning.



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The shorter days also mean there's less daylight. The sun rises later and sets earlier, which is why it gets dark earlier in the evening. The cooler weather and shorter days signal to plants and animals that winter is on its way.

Autumn is filled with fun holidays and traditions. In October, many people celebrate Halloween by dressing up in costumes, carving pumpkins, and going trick-or-treating. Some families also visit pumpkin patches or haunted houses for fun autumn activities.

In November, Thanksgiving is a time for family and friends to gather together and enjoy a big meal. It's a holiday to reflect on the things we are grateful for, and many people enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving feast with turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie.

Autumn is a season of transition, preparing both nature and people for the colder months ahead. The colorful leaves, cooler weather, and animal activity make it a special time of year to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. From fun holidays to the wonders of nature, autumn has something for everyone to appreciate.

1. What happens to trees in the fall? _____

2. Describe what some animals do during fall? _____

3. According to the text, what are some things people enjoy about fall? _____

4. What is your favorite thing about fall? _____
