

# Kindergarten Grade / Fall Walk / At A Glance

Plants, Animals and Seasonal Changes ⌚ 45 minutes

## Goals

- Use the four senses to observe and describe seasonal changes
- Discover how plants change seasonally
- Explore plant parts: roots, stem, leaves, flowers and seeds

## Using the Four Senses

⌚ 5 minutes

Take the group to a grassy area and sit in a circle (with their backs to the school) and ask the kids to close their eyes for 20-30 seconds.

- *What do you hear?* (Birds, leaves, traffic, airplanes, insects)
- *What do you feel on your skin?* (Wind, sun) *Is the air cooler than summer?*
- *What do you smell?* Soil? Flowers?
- Open your eyes ...*what do you see? Are the colors of the plants different than summer?*

## Observe Plants in a String Circle

⌚ 5 minutes

Place a loop of string on the ground trying to include a variety of plants and leaves.

- *How many different things do you see in the circle? How many different leaves do you see in the circle? (size –smallest, largest?, shape, color, texture-dry, smooth, brittle?) Which is your favorite leaf?*
- *Where did the leaves in the circle come from? How did they get here?*
- *Which leaves do you think are alive? Growing? Which are dead?*

There are 6 parts to a plant, a leaf is one of them. Can you eat leaves? Which kind?

## Explore Plant Parts

⌚ 20 minutes

Let's talk about the other parts of the plant. *Do you know what they are?* (root, stem, leaves, flowers, fruit, seeds). Find examples of each plant part.

### Root

- Dig up a grass plant. *Does anyone know what these are?* Observe with magnifying lens. *What do you think roots do for the plant?* (anchor, get water and minerals, store food) *Have you eaten a root?* (carrot).
- Show exposed roots of trees. *Do you know what they are? How do they look different from the grass roots? What happened to the soil?*

### Stem

- Show maple leaf stem. Does anyone know what this is? What do you think stems do for the plant?
- ( Stem holds up the leaf & transports water nutrients and minerals.) Break one open to see the sap. Have you ever eaten a stem before? (celery).
- Show bark/trunk. What do you think this is? What does it do for the tree?
- Walk along the edge and look for the biggest stem you can find.

### Flower

- Observe a flower. What do you think flowers do for the plant ?(Helps the plant make the seed)

**Seed:** (Golden rod, Inside Fruit, Grass/Plaintain seeds, Acorns (Adult handles))

- Lets go look for another part of a plant. Can you name another that we haven't seen yet? Seeds. Observe a seed. What do you think seeds do for the plant? (makes more plants)

## Explore Evergreen Trees (Spruce, White Pine, Yew)

- Do some trees stay green forever? Do they have leaves? (Needles are leaves) Do they change color?
- Are needles the same for all ever greens? Color? Length?, # needles in bundles?
- Are some needles sharp? And others soft?

**Plant daffodils:** Have each student plant 3 bulbs in designated areas.

⌚ 10 minutes

- Each daffodil bulb will grow into its own plant. You are helping to make Harrington beautiful.

## Wrap up:

- What did you discover about plants?

This summary does not replace the Walk Guide. Activities, their order, and duration will vary depending on your group dynamics and weather.

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