

## Social Studies Theme: Geography

**Lesson:** *Weather and Seasons*

**Grade Level:** 1-4

**Overview:** Students will be introduced to basic concepts dealing with weather, the four seasons of the year, and their correlation to each other.

**Approximate Duration:** one class period

**National Social Studies Standards:** NSS-G.K-12.3 Physical Systems

[http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc\\_sci/geography/k\\_12.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc_sci/geography/k_12.shtml)

**Objective:** Students will be able to differentiate the four seasons and understand how they affect weather.

### Procedure:

- Discuss that weather is caused by changes in the atmosphere that includes changes in temperature, wind, cloudiness, air pressure, and moisture. Also, talk about the ways the sun drives changes in weather.
- Explain why it is important for people to know about the weather and how it affects their daily lives. Read the “What Is Weather” passage aloud to the students.
- Introduce the four seasons of the year to the students and talk about how each is often influenced by the weather.

### Assessment:

- Write the four seasons (*summer, autumn, winter, spring*) across the top of the board and the following words as rows on the left side of the table: *months, weather, holidays, and activities*.
- Write “Seasons in \_\_\_\_\_ (name of location you are in)” as a title for the table.
- Tell students that we will now brainstorm some facts about the four seasons. For each season, ask during which months does the season occur and the various holidays (include the dates) that fall in that season. Be sure to include multicultural holidays. Ask students what the weather is like and what activities they like to do during these seasons. Write down student ideas.
- **Technology integration:** Using iPads, have students illustrate what people might do and wear in various weather conditions (i.e. rainy spring day, sunny summer afternoon, cold snowy winter morning). Or, on an interactive smartboard, display a “paper doll” image, along with various articles of clothing (i.e. sunglasses, hat, sweater, etc.). Have students select which clothes are appropriate for each season.



## What is Weather?

When people talk about the weather, they are talking about the changes that happen in the atmosphere. The atmosphere is the layer of air surrounding the Earth. Changes in the atmosphere cause changes in temperature, wind, cloudiness, air pressure, and moisture. The amount of moisture in the air can lead to rain, fog, sleet, or snow. People need to know about these changes so they can plan what to wear, what they're going to do, and whether they need to take an umbrella. Farmers and gardeners need to know about the weather to plan when to plant or harvest crops. As you can see although these changes happen high up in the atmosphere, they can greatly affect life on Earth in many ways... such as the growth of Victory Gardens!