



The Things I Love About Trees

Author: Chris Butterworth

Illustrator: Charlotte Voake

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Synopsis:

Learn how a plum tree changes with the seasons in this charming non-fiction picture book, beautifully illustrated by Charlotte Voake. Chris Butterworth's gentle, lyrical text describes how the buds of the plum tree bloom in the spring and how its leaves grow green and lush in the summer. Time goes by, and soon we see those same leaves fall in the autumn – now the branches are bare for the cold winter-months. With exquisite watercolour illustrations by Charlotte Voake, this is a book to treasure.

Author Bio:

When I was little I lived in two wild bits of England: near the wild Cornish cliffs of Land's End and in the middle of Devonshire moorland on Dartmoor. I spent hours poking around in rock pools and lifting up stones to see what was underneath, because I was always nosy. (Everyone in the world is born curious, and if you're lucky, you stay that way forever.) As an adult, I lived in London for a long time, but now I'm back in the far west of England, near Land's End — and I'm still nosy.

That's why I write information books — there's always something else to find out about, and writing about a thing is the best way to find out about it. I started writing information books when my own children were little. I couldn't find the sort of book I wanted them to read, so I wrote one of my own. I've written about all sorts of things: from influenza to Antarctic exploration, from giant squid to the ancient Egyptians. What am I most interested in? That's easy—it's whatever I'm writing about at the moment.

Illustrator Bio:

Charlotte Voake studied art history at the University of London. She worked for a short time at the Bluecoat Gallery in Liverpool and illustrated her first children's book while still at university. She has illustrated many books for other authors, as well as producing her own picture books, among them *Ginger* and *Pizza Kittens*.

Curriculum Links

Science

Foundation: Earth and space sciences

Daily and seasonal changes in our environment affect everyday life

[ACSSU004](#)

- linking the changes in the daily weather to the way we modify our behaviour and dress for different conditions, including examples from different cultures.
- investigating how changes in the weather might affect animals such as pets, animals that hibernate, or migratory animals.
- learning how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander concepts of time and weather patterns explain how things happen in the world around them.

Looking at the illustrations in the book, what are some of the clues that the weather is changing. What is the little girl wearing when the sun is shining and there are lots of leaves on the trees? What is she wearing when the branches are bare?

This book is published in the UK, so the little girl does not wear a hat in summer. Point this out in the story, ask the children what is missing?

- What would they have on if they were playing outside in the summer in Australia?
- What does she wear when the weather gets colder?
What kinds of things do you wear when it's raining outside?
- Or when it's cold?

Year 1: Earth and space sciences

Observable changes occur in the sky and landscape [ACSSU019](#)

exploring the local environment to identify and describe natural, managed and constructed features

recording short and longer term patterns of events that occur on Earth and in the sky, such as the appearance of the moon and stars at night, the weather and the seasons.

Year 1 Biological Sciences:

Living things have a variety of external features [ACSSU017](#)

Identifying common features of plants such as leaves and roots

Talk about the parts of the tree.

- What parts can you see? - Trunk, branches, leaves
- What do the leaves do?
- What do the leaves need to be able to do their job?

What parts can't you see?

Roots – What do the roots of the tree do?

Geography Year 1 Seasons

[ACHASSK029](#) [ACHASSK032](#)

- *examining seasonal calendars of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups (for example, the Gagudju (Kakadu) and the D'harawal (Sydney) calendars, each with six seasons, the Arrernte (central Australia) with five, the Woiwurrung (Upper Yarra Valley) with seven, and north-east Tasmania with three)*

The Bureau of Meteorology have an Indigenous Weather Knowledge page which shows the seasons of a number of Aboriginal communities around Australia.

Have a look at one of the groups in your state and compare the seasons you know to the ones listed there.

<http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/?ref=ftr>

Other resources that show different seasons in Australia:

BOOKS:

Ernie Dances to the Didgeridoo – Alison Lester

Walking With the Seasons In Kakadu – Diane Lucas

WEBSITES/VIDEO:

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/2035485/seasons-with-dirtgirl>

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/1771788/indigenous-seasons-across-northern-australia>

Mathematics Year 1

Strand: Measurement and Geometry [ACMMG021](#)

- Describe duration using months, weeks, days and hours

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/1566152/what-s-in-a-year->

Art Foundation - Visual Arts

Learning Area: The Arts [ACAVAM107](#)

Description: Use and experiment with different materials, techniques, technologies and processes to make artworks

Trees come in all shapes and sizes, so they are a great subject to draw or paint.

Using the techniques shown in this short clip, allocate a season to each child, and have them paint a tree, showing what it would look like during the season they were allocated.

Alternatively give the students' free reign to use any medium, and have them create a tree for their season.

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/2622325/how-to-paint-textures>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQVkJZDkgI3A>