

Natural vs. Human Seasonal Comparison

By observing both animals and humans in the same environment, students build appreciation and awareness for both natural and human communities. By noticing similarities and differences and making comparisons, students practice critical thinking and gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information.

GRADES: 3rd Grade

INTENDED OUTCOMES: Feet, Head

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES:

- Pens, paper and clipboard or notebook to make observations in

STEPS:

- There are many questions that students can explore within the broad framework of comparing the natural environment and its inhabitants with a human environment and its inhabitants during different seasons. Some options are:
 - How do animals adapt to changes in seasons? How do humans adapt to changes in seasons? How do these compare? (Consider behavior, food, shelter, physiology, etc.)
 - What physical changes do we see in natural environments as the seasons change? What physical changes do we see in more urban/man-made environments as the seasons change? How do these compare?
- To answer these questions, you can start by picking one animal that regularly visits your schoolyard, like a crow or a squirrel. Go outside with students to observe what the animal looks like and what its behavior is during your current season. (Depending on the season, you might not see it at all! Why might that be?)
- Next, find a space to observe humans – this could be a homework assignment so students can sit in a public place and make observations. Note how people are dressed, what they are eating, and the different activities they are doing in the current season.
- Repeat these activities in the next season. Does the people and the animals look different or act different in different seasons? Are there things they do the same? (Maybe they notice that most people eat many of the same things during all seasons but animals eat different things. If this is the case, you can discuss why we don't have to change this particular behaviors with the seasons, while animals do.

Relevant Standards

(n/a)