

# Spring

Remember how different parts of the earth experience different types of weather? In most of the United States, there are four seasons and each season has distinct characteristics, or clearly different ways to describe them.

Who can identify the proper sequence the four seasons of the year are experienced in the United States?

Winter



# Spring

After winter, the next season in the cycle is spring. In the United States, the season of spring begins in the month of March and includes the months of April and May.

What is the date today? Is it spring yet?

**2016**

January	February	March	April
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May	June	July	August
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September	October	November	December
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# Spring

*I'm going to need your help during the read aloud today. I will want you to pretend you are holding a bunch of flowers and smelling them, every time I read the word spring.*





# Spring

The main topic, or main idea of today's lesson is spring. You will hear another letter from your pen pal, telling you about the season of spring in Washington, D.C. Listen for the different characteristics of spring.



# Spring

Dear Kindergartners,

After winter, the next season is spring! Here, spring means the time of the year when flowers bloom. The word spring can have other meanings. The word spring also means a source of water coming up from the ground.



Don't forget to smell your flowers when you hear the word spring.

# Spring

Spring arrives gradually, bit by bit, beginning in mid-March, and it continues through the months of April and May. The air warms and the ground begins to thaw because the days are longer and there is more sunlight.. The snow and ice begin to melt, or thaw, and the ground is no longer hard and frozen.



Don't forget to smell your flowers when you hear the word spring.



# Spring

The rivers and streams fill with water from all the melted snow and ice. Tiny green leaves appear on some tree branches. A few new plants may also start to peek up out of the soil here and there. Hibernating animals wake up from their winter sleep.



Don't forget to smell your flowers when you hear the word spring.



# Spring

Did you know that some animals like bears sleep most of the time during winter? They hibernate during winter when it's cold and wake up when it becomes warmer in spring. These are all signs that spring has sprung or that spring is here!



Don't forget to smell your flowers when you hear the word spring.

# Spring

Spring is a very windy season. Some people say, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." This means that the weather in spring changes from being stormy and windy with the strength and power of a lion in the beginning to calmer and milder by the end, like a soft gentle lamb.



Don't forget to smell your flowers when you hear the word spring.

# Spring

*In fact, the windy beginning of spring is a perfect time to fly a kite!*



*Don't forget to smell your flowers when you hear the word spring.*



# Spring

In addition to wind, there are also many rainy days in the early spring, particularly in March and April. I love when I get to wear my raincoat and rain boots because then I can splash in puddles!



# Spring

Sometimes after a spring rain shower you can see a colorful rainbow in the sky. There is another old saying that tells us, "April showers bring May flowers." This means that the rains of April help flowering plants to grow big and healthy, so they produce beautiful, fragrant flowers in May and throughout the summer.



# Spring

The world outside truly changes during spring. Flowers are one of the most important signs of spring because they tell you that the plant world has come to life once again. Soon, bees will be buzzing among the flowers, birds will be chirping in the leafy trees, and the afternoon hours will be warm and pleasant.





# Spring

Washington, D.C., is famous for the cherry blossoms that bloom here each spring. In April, the cherry trees throughout the city burst into bloom, and millions of brilliant pink and white flowers show that spring is here. My parents and I have a special spring picnic every year under the cherry blossoms.



# Spring

Spring is an important time on farms. For the farmer, it is time to get back out in the fields. The farmer must plow his soil and prepare it for planting. He plows the field in order to stir up the soil's nutrients--that's food for plants--and loosen the ground so that new seeds will be able to take root.



# Spring

When the time is right, the farmer will go through his plowed fields and plant his seeds in neat rows. A couple of weeks later, the field will be brimming with little green seedlings, or young plants, and by summer you won't be able to see the brown soil at all beneath all the big, green plants.





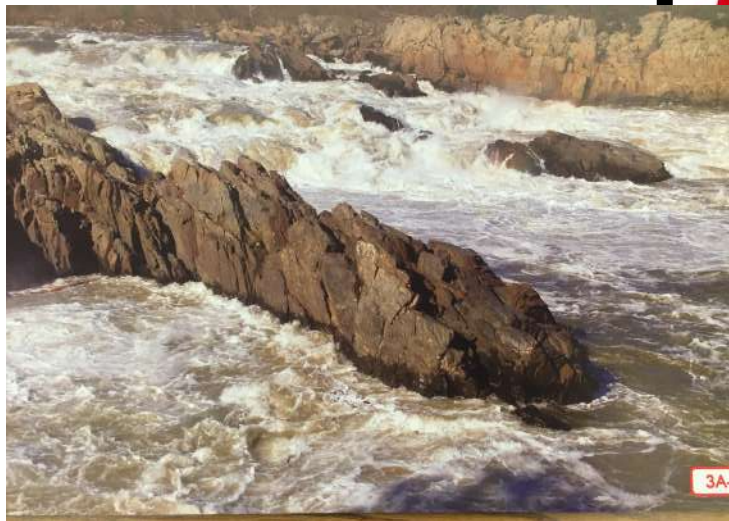
# Spring

Spring is also an important time for the animals on the farm. Many animals give birth to new baby animals in the springtime. The barnyard and fields are full of baby animals, whose mothers nurse and care for them as they grow. Baby horses, called foals, frolic in the fields, lambs nuzzle close to the mother sheep, and ducklings line up and follow their mother duck to the pond.



# Spring

Washington, D.C., was build along the banks of the Potomac River. Banks are the land alongside a river. Rivers usually reach their highest levels during the spring. Melted snow from the surrounding fields and mountains drains into creeks and seeps through the ground to reach the river, where it will eventually flow out to the sea. Sometimes the river water becomes so high, it floods or overflows its banks.





# Spring

Several holidays are celebrated during the springtime. On the Christian holiday of Easter, people often go on Easter egg hunts to look for decorated eggs or an Easter basket full of candy. During the Jewish holiday of Passover, special food is served to family and friends at the Passover Seder. The Hindu holiday of Holi is a festival of colors, during which people celebrate the colors of springtime by dancing, singing, and sprinkling colored water on each other.





# Spring

Another important holiday, called Memorial Day, is celebrated on the last Monday in May. On this day, we honor the American men and women who have fought and died in different wars to protect the United States. Many people also celebrate Memorial Day with parades, picnics, barbecues, and family gatherings. In Washington, D.C., we have a big concert to celebrate.



# Spring

What is spring like where you live? Is it any different from spring in Washington, D.C.?



# Spring

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

What is the main topic, or main idea, of today's lesson?



# Spring

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Describe some of the changes that happen  
from winter to spring.

# Spring

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Why is spring an important time on farms?

# Think Pair. Share.



I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.



# Think Pair. Share.



**Evaluative:**

What activities do you like to do during the spring?

# **Word Work**

*Explicit Vocabulary Instruction*

# Spring

*In the read aloud you heard, “Spring arrives **gradually**, bit by bit, beginning in mid March, and it continues through the months of April and May.”*

*Say the word **gradually** with me.  
Whisper gradually to the ceiling.  
Whisper gradually to your neighbor.  
Let's clap it out.*



# Spring

**Gradually** means slowly, or over a period of time.

If something happens gradually, it happens slowly.  
Snow melts gradually when it is very cold outside.

# Spring

Tell about something that happens gradually.  
Try to use the word gradually when you tell  
about it.

“One thing that happens gradually is \_\_\_\_\_”

*Spring*

*What's the word we have been talking  
about?*

*Let's clap it out.*



# Spring

The opposite of gradually is quickly. If any of the things I describe happen gradually, say, "\_\_\_\_\_ happens gradually." If any of the things I describe happen quickly, say, "\_\_\_\_\_ happens quickly."



*Spring*

*the snow melting during spring*

*Spring*

*an ice cube melting in a cup of hot water*



*Spring*

*pulling your hand away from a hot stove*

*Spring*

*a baby becoming a kindergartener*

*Spring*

*a seedling growing into a full sized plant.*