

Observing the changing seasons

For whom: Primary school	Where: Indoors and outdoors
Wilderness passport section: Out and about in nature	When: Round the school year
Learning outcomes: Observing changes in nature in different seasons.	What you need: Pen and paper, ruler, camera
Duration: Around 10 min x 11	Personnel resources: 1

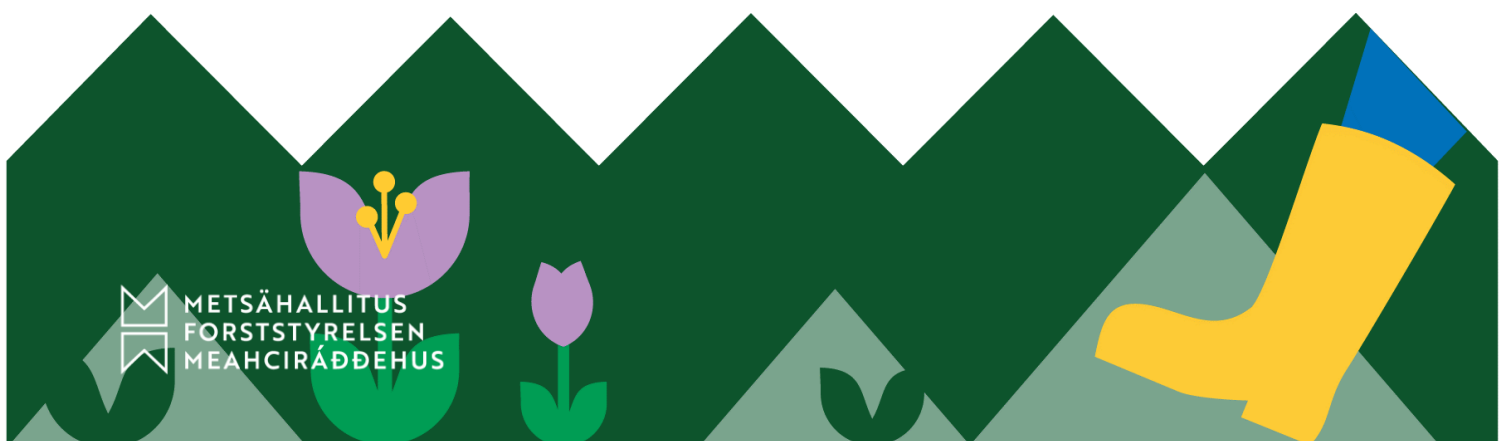
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print out the table for observing the seasons for each pupil or for pairs. Alternatively, you can also create a shared table for the whole class (for example, enlarge it and attach it to the classroom wall).
2. Tell the pupils to observe the same site in nature (such as their garden at home, a wood you can see through the classroom window, a park) in different seasons throughout the school year.

In this assignment, the pupils examine seasonal changes in nature. You can collect the observations in the table below. The site you observe should have some vegetation.

You should always talk about seasonal variations and the planetary phenomena affecting them when filling in and discussing the table. You can find great videos on YouTube on seasonal variations in a certain area (with such search terms as 'seasons in Finland', 'a year in Helsinki', or 'the difference between summer and winter in Finland'), which you can use to start your discussion. If the school has cameras or tablets, the pupils can take pictures of the same view, for example on the last school day of each month, and attach the pictures to the table.

At the latest in spring, you can discuss the changes you have recorded in the table in detail. You can also talk about if the observation period has been particularly cold, rainy, snowy or dry.



Tips for filling in the table:

- You can check the temperatures on the Finnish Meteorological Institute's website <https://en.ilmatieteenlaitos.fi/> if there is no thermometer close by the selected site. Type the name of your municipality in the search box to also see the times of sunrise and sunset on each day and the length of daylight hours.
- In the Weather section, the idea is that you record the conditions at the time the observation was made, such as cloudy, sunny, broken cloud, rain, wind, etc..
- A long ruler (a large blackboard ruler if necessary) or a stick can be used to check and measure the snow depth. Push the ruler/stick into the snow as straight as possible and try to make sure it touches the ground. You can also check the snow depth at <https://en.ilmatieteenlaitos.fi/>.
- In the section "Observations on plants", you can write what the leaves on trees look like (if there are any)? What do plants look like? Can you see any fungi?
- In the 'Observations on animals' section you can record the animals you could see at the time the observation was made (mammals, birds, insects...)
- You can monitor ice cover in a nearby water body, if there is no ditch, stream or similar on the site you are observing.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE CHANGING SEASONS

Observer(s)

15

[illegible]