

# SIGNS OF FALL

All Things Autumn!

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# LINCOLN MEMORIAL GARDEN AND NATURE CENTER

## Teachers Guide

Fall Program: Signs of Fall

Grade Level: Preschool – Kindergarten

Field Trip Length: 1.25 hours

### INTRODUCTION

The very best tools any naturalist can use to learn more about natural surroundings are the five senses. To learn more about autumn seasonal changes, emphasizing sensory exploration is the best way to experience and to gain more knowledge of the natural world. There are so many lovely signs of fall all around Lincoln Memorial Garden as the temperatures cool and daylight wanes. From the sights of abundant nuts and berries and the gorgeous reds, oranges, yellows and purples of deciduous leaves to pungent scents of sassafras leaves and black walnut hulls to the sounds of migrating birds and rustling leaves, all our senses are heightened with the beauty autumn offers at Lincoln Memorial Garden. It's all about autumn!

### OBJECTIVES:

1. To observe autumn changes at Lincoln Memorial Garden, focusing on using our five senses to heighten the experience of fall in the natural world.
2. To discover how animals and plants adapt during the fall season to prepare for the approaching winter.
3. To strengthen sensorial education in the outdoors and to gain an appreciation of the beauty of nature in the autumn season

### **THIS PROGRAM HAS THE POTENTIAL TO MEET THE FOLLOWING ILLINOIS LEARNING STANDARDS:**

Learning Area	Goal	Standard	Benchmark
Language Arts	4	A	1a, 1b, 1c

		B	1b
Science	11	A	1a, 1b, 1e, 1f
	12	A	1
		B	1a
		E	1a, 1b, 1c
Physical Development	19	A	1, 2

### SUGGESTIONS FOR PRETRIP ACTIVITIES:

1. Arrange 10 fall objects on a tray for all the children to see. Tell a little story about each one. Examples: different leaves, seeds, fruits, even pictures of animals in autumn. After telling the little stories about each object, say the names once again while counting them with the children. Then, cover the objects with a towel or cloth. Have the children work together in small groups to recall and list the 10 fall objects by writing names or drawing pictures.
2. Gather paint chips from a home improvement store in autumn colors. Cut the chips apart and have the children construct color wheels of fall colors by gluing the paint chips onto construction paper. Once they have constructed their fall color wheels, take a walk around the schoolyard or the block to find nature that matches the colors on their wheels. Discuss gradation of colors and typical fall shades.
3. Fill 10 duplicate cylindrical containers with different sounding materials. Example: 2 containers of salt, 2 of buttons, 2 of pennies, etc. Have the children work in pairs to shake the containers and find the matching sound cylinders. Discuss with children to discover if they are hearing familiar sounds they have heard before. Open sound cylinders and allow them to see the materials after they have matched them to determine if they have guessed correctly using their sense of hearing.
4. Make texture impressions with several distinctly textured objects such as pieces of bark, coins, sandpaper, textured wallpaper pages, etc. Children feel the objects, then make rubbings of the objects with crayons and paper. Ask the children to choose a few objects to arrange in a preferred art form, cover them with paper, and use the sides of fall colored crayons to create a textured art piece with rubbings.



Treetops of red and orange  
Sun-kissed crabapples  
Yellow sugar maple leaves

3. Make a raccoon touch and feel bag. Collect two samples each of a variety of textured natural objects. (Possible items: acorns, hickory nuts, bark pieces, leaves, sticks, rocks, etc.) Children can bring in items to change the objects in the bag and continue interest in “seeing with their hands”. Ask a child to bring out one object from the bag without looking. Then, reach in the bag again and find the match using the tactile sense to locate another like object. Discuss how raccoons have hands with five fingers like ours and learn best with their sense of touch. The real reason they like to put their paws in water is to heighten their sense of touch, thus enabling them to be better at finding food and remaining safe.

### RESOURCES LIST FOR SIGNS OF FALL: ALL ABOUT AUTUMN.

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