

# Science Story Adventures



## Winter Plants

### Learning outcomes

- » Different types of plants and animals inhabit the earth. (Kindergarten - Life Sciences)
- » Students know how to observe and describe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of plants. (Kindergarten - Life sciences).
- » Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences).

*From: California's Science Content Standards*

### Books we read

*Paperwhite* by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

*Night Tree* by Eve Bunting

### Activities we did

- » We looked at the fruits of different plants that can grow in winter, such as many root vegetables.
- » We looked at leaves from deciduous and coniferous trees and talked about how each kind of tree is adapted to surviving the winter.
- » We looked at a plant bulb and talked about how it grows into a plant.
- » We talked about and looked at examples of different plants associated with various winter holidays.

### Today's craft: Handprint Wreath



### You will need:

- » Green construction paper
- » Red construction paper
- » Pencil
- » Scissors
- » Glue

### Directions:

1. On 2 folded sheets, draw around your hand and cut it out. You need 8 hands in all.
2. Make hands into wreath shape, with wrists facing into the center and overlapping. Then, glue them together.
3. Draw and cut out a red bow and berries using the red construction paper. Decorate your wreath with these.

*Adapted from <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/christmas/handwreath/>*

# Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

## Books

*Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing the Trees* by Jim Arnosky. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QK475.8 .A76 1992

Describes the different characteristics of many kinds of trees.

*How do Apples Grow?* by Betsy Maestro. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QK827 .M33 1992

Describes the life cycle of an apple tree as it changes throughout the seasons.

*How Leaves Change* by Sylvia A. Johnson. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QK649 .J64 1986

Describes changes and causes of the seasonal cycle of trees.

*Photosynthesis : Changing Sunlight into Food* by Bobbie Kalman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QK882 K34 2005

Has a section on winter plants, placing this season in context within the processes of photosynthesis.

## DVDs

*Life*. Nat. Ctr. Media QH501 .L55 2010, pt. 4

The episode *Plants* from this series focuses on the many ways plants have evolved to adapt in a variety of environments from the dragon's blood tree found in rocky deserts to Minnesotan hardwoods surviving harsh winters.

## Websites

Christmas Trees & More

Tree facts, types, traditions and farms.

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/trees/facts.cfm>

My First Garden

A how-to site for kids who want to start their first garden.

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/firstgarden/basics/index.cfm>

Winter: Dreaming about Gardening

Gardening-related activities, as well as book recommendations, for winter time.

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/archives/garden/seasons/winter.html>

World Biomes: Taiga and Temperate Forest

Describes the different adaptations for winter and other seasons of animals and plants in each biome.

<http://kids.nceas.ucsb.edu/biomes/taiga.html>

<http://kids.nceas.ucsb.edu/biomes/temperateforest.html>