



# Autumn to Winter

**OBJECTIVE:** Read to learn about the changes that take place between autumn and winter.

**STANDARDS:** Science: Organisms and environments; Changes in the earth and sky

**“Leaves have lots of colors inside them all year round.”**

## BEFORE READING

### Visualize

Have children compare visualizations of autumn and winter.

Invite children to close their eyes and picture an autumn day. Ask, “What is the weather like this season? How do the trees look?” Have children share a few responses and then repeat the exercise, this time with winter. Ask, “What will the weather be like? What will happen to the trees?” Encourage children to share their thoughts about how winter will be different from autumn. Tell children they will read about the changes that happen with the seasons.

## DURING READING

### Navigate a Page

Help children navigate the layout in logical order.

After reading the green box at the top of page 2, ask, “Where on the page do you think we should read next?” (*the top part of page 3*) “How do you know?” (*The arrow points there.*) Point out the three color bars across pages 2 and 3—green, red, and purple. Explain that the issue is laid out this way to help readers compare the two seasons.

## AFTER READING

### Compare and Contrast

Use a graphic organizer to compare and contrast autumn and winter.

Draw a T-Chart on the board, labeling one column *Autumn* and the other *Winter*. Encourage children to tell facts they learned from the issue. Write the facts in the appropriate columns of the chart to show similarities and differences. For instance, *colored leaves* might go in the *Autumn* column; *bare branches* might go in the *Winter* column.

## READ-ALoud BACKGROUND

### Awesome Autumn Changes

- Leaves have lots of colors inside them all year round. In spring and summer, green is the strongest color. It covers up all the other colors. But in the fall, the leaves stop making the green coloring. That lets the other colors (like red, orange, and yellow) come out!
- Not all trees have leaves that change color. On some trees, the leaves stay green all year. These trees are called **evergreens**. Can you guess why? For a hint, find the two smaller words in the big word.
- Chipmunks gather their food in the fall. That’s because seeds, nuts, and berries are hard to find under snow in winter.
- Chipmunks pick up nuts with their mouths and put them in their **cheek pouches**. The chipmunks carry the nuts back to their homes under the ground. These homes are called **burrows**.

### Wonderful Winter Changes

- Trees that lose their leaves are called **deciduous trees**. Their leaves usually fall off in the autumn. In the spring, these trees will grow a new set of green leaves.
- **Evergreen trees** lose their leaves too, but we don’t notice because they don’t all fall off at the same time. Throughout the year, leaves fall off different parts of the tree and new ones grow in their place.
- Chipmunks sleep in the winter to save energy. But they don’t spend the winter in a deep sleep like groundhogs do.
- Instead, chipmunks wake up on warmer winter days. They eat the nuts they have stored in their burrow. They may even leave their burrow and go outside. Then, they go back to sleep. Zzzzz!