

FOSS TREES AND WEATHER MODULE—WEEK 4

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Hello Teachers and Families,

This package includes **Home/School activities for Trees and Weather Investigation 4—Trees through the Seasons** on the FOSS website <https://www.fossweb.com>.

Families can access Home/School Connections and other resources (multimedia, streaming video, and *FOSS Science Resources* interactive e-book) on FOSSweb through the class pages set up by the teacher. The teacher will need to provide the class user name and password for full access.

If the teacher has not set up Class Pages, families can still access the **Home/School Connections Center** page from the main FOSSweb login page. No registration is necessary for this access.

The Home/School Connections for each module are active investigations that can be conducted at home (inside or outdoors).

If you haven't used FOSSweb resources before, here's how.

For Students and Families: To sign in to FOSSweb, use the user name and password provided by your teacher. This might be a Common Class or Individual Student login. Here's a short video to get you started on FOSSweb

For Student and Families Sign in Video: <https://youtu.be/Fcfjbt7Li2k>

For FOSSweb help: <https://www.fossweb.com/student-parent-help>.

FOR TEACHERS: For help in setting up and using Class Pages, use the Walk-through Videos on FOSSweb:

<https://www.fossweb.com/fossweb-walkthrough-videos>

Visit the Home/School Connection for each module you teach, select the specific assignments that will be most relevant to your students at this point in instruction. Communicate with families about which content you are assigning through the Class Pages Notes on FOSSweb or through any other established parent communication channel your school has in place.

Tech support on FOSSweb: <https://www.fossweb.com/contact-us#jotform>

Sincerely,

The FOSS Team at the Lawrence Hall of Science

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 4, A

Investigation 4: Trees through the Seasons

Here are things to do at home with this investigation.

Adopt some trees in your yard or area.

- Have your child draw pictures of the trees in their science notebook and describe their observations. Are the trees producing new leaves or flowers? Is fruit starting to form?
- Use string or yarn to measure around the tree’s trunk.
- Create a tree scrapbook and include artifacts in the book such as the string or yarn from the bullet above, samples of leaves and bark.

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 4, B

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Investigation 4: Trees through the Seasons

Read “My Apple Tree” in FOSS Science Resources: *Trees and Weather* eBook

To access the interactive eBook, login to FOSSweb with the username and password provided by your teacher. Go to the Media Library and look for the eBook.

Introduce the title, “My Apple Tree.” Ask your child what they think the article will be about.

Read the article with your child. You can click on the speaker icon on each page to have the text read to your child as well. As you read the article together, answer the questions on the pages together. In addition, here are some things you can do together with the interactives on the pages. (Click on the movie clip icon to play the clips.)

- Page 47: Ask your child what they notice about the ice that formed on the tree. Why do they think that happens?
- Pages 48–49: How are these trees in the spring different from what the tree looked like in the winter? We’re in spring now. Can your child observe any spring trees now? What do they look like?
- Page 50: What does your child observe about the apple tree in the fall?

Extension activity

On your next trip to the grocery store, have your child count the different kinds of apples that are available to purchase. Ask your child if they think they all came from the same kind of tree.

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 4, C

Investigation 4: Trees through the Seasons

Engage with the Online Activity: “Who Lives Here?”

Access the activity by logging in to your teacher’s Class Page. Click on “Who Lives Here?” in the Online Activity column. This activity is a match game for animals and plants that live around certain kinds of trees.

- Have your child click on a card. It will flip over and reveal an animal or plant that lives on or around the tree that is shown.
- Have your child choose a different card by clicking on it.
- If the card does not match the first card, both cards will flip back over. If the card matches the first card, your child will get a message as to what the animal or plant is.
- Continue matching all the cards until all cards have been revealed and matched.
- Change the tree to a different kind of tree and repeat the game.

Extension Activity

Have your child go outside or look out the window and find some trees. Have them observe what kinds of animals and plants live on or around the tree.

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 4, D

Investigation 4: Trees through the Seasons

Read “Orange Trees” in *FOSS Science Resources: Trees and Weather eBook*

To access the interactive eBook, login to FOSSweb with the username and password provided by your teacher. Go to the Media Library and look for the eBook.

Introduce the title, “Orange Trees.” Ask your child what they think the article will be about.

Read the article with your child. You can click on the speaker icon on each page to have the text read to your child as well. As you read the article together, answer the questions on the pages together. In addition, here are some things you can do together with the interactives on the pages. (Click on the movie clip icon to play the clips.)

- Page 51: Have your child look at the orange tree and compare what they see to the apple tree in the previous article.
- Pages 53, 55, and 56: Explain to your child that oranges, like apples, come in different varieties and the fruit can ripen in different seasons.

Extension activity

Save the seeds from apples and oranges and plant them with your child. It will take a few years before the tree can bear fruit but encourage your child to take care of the tree as it grows.

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 4, E

Investigation 4: Trees through the Seasons

View the Streaming Video: *Once There Was a Tree* (Chapter 4)

Access the video by logging in to your teacher’s Class Page. Click on “Streaming Videos” in the Media Library. This video will show how maple syrup is produced.

Ask your child to describe the repeating pattern in maple syrup production. When does the process begin and what are the steps in the process?

Extension Activity

Does your child like maple syrup? Research other uses for syrup besides pouring on pancakes and waffles. Maybe find a recipe for Maple Sugar Cookies and bake them together.

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 4, F

Investigation 4: Trees through the Seasons

Read “Maple Trees” in *FOSS Science Resources: Trees and Weather eBook*

To access the interactive eBook, login to FOSSweb with the username and password provided by your teacher. Go to the Media Library and look for the eBook.

Introduce the title, “Maple Trees.” Ask your child what they think the article will be about.

Read the article with your child. You can click on the speaker icon on each page to have the text read to your child as well. As you read the article together, answer the questions on the pages together. In addition, here are some things you can do together with the interactives on the pages. (Click on the movie clip icon to play the clips.)

- Page 59: Click on the “book” icon (looks like 2 books stacked on each other) to open an embedded activity in the book. Have your child click on the different seasons to see how the maple tree changes over the seasons. Have them describe to you how the tree changes over the seasons.
- Page 60: Ask your child why they think the maple seeds look like they do? How does the shape of the seeds help it get planted and grow?

Extension activity

If you are able, go to an area where there are different types of trees and collect any seeds that have dropped from the trees. Sort and compare the seeds.

- How are they alike and how are they different?

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION—WEEK 4, G

Investigation 4: Trees through the Seasons

View the Streaming Video: *Summer* (Chapters 3, 4, 5, 1)

Access the video by logging in to your teacher’s Class Page. Click on “Streaming Videos” in the Media Library. Show these chapters from the “Summer” video in this order: Chapter 3 (*Fall*), 4 (*Winter*), 5 (*Spring*), and 1 (*Summer*).

- Ask your child to describe the changes in the seasons and the impact the change in seasons can bring to plants and animals that live there.
- Ask your child why we call the change in seasons a repeating pattern.

Extension Activity

Have your child draw pictures of what your area is like at each season: fall, winter, spring, and summer. Ask them why they drew their pictures as they did and to describe how the seasons change where you live.