

That's our

Autumn & Harvest

assembly sorted! 

AGES 7+

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Easy Peasy
PLAYS

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BURSTING WITH IDEAS!

It's that time of year again, when summer's over and the weather starts to turn. It's always great to celebrate this beautiful season, and our Assembly Pack is bursting with resources to help you stage the perfect autumn assembly or harvest festival. Simply pick and mix whatever you like from the enclosed resources, including:

- An inspiring collection of unusual ideas to help stage the perfect autumn assembly or harvest festival;
- Lots of songs all about autumn and harvest-time;
- A fantastic selection of original poems, ready to print out for reading in the assembly, or for inspiring students to write their own;
- A great selection of readings, ready to print and read out in the assembly; these are specifically designed to be easy to read for the students;
- A fantastic selection of fun-packed, educational activities and information sheets, ready to print out and use in the classroom to get your students excited about autumn!

Enclosed here is just a very small sample of the contents of the 100-page Book and the Download Assembly Pack – everything you need for the perfect celebration of autumn!



SAMPLE HARVEST FESTIVAL IDEA

News Report

Ask the students to imagine that a television news team is covering the arrival of autumn. Some of the students can play news reporters, journalists, or even camera crew, who are all there to capture the change of the season.

With the students' help, put together a simple, improvised play to perform, in which the television crew cover the start of autumn. For example:

- A weather reporter can present a forecast for autumn, covering the fact that the season heralds colder temperatures, shorter days, mist and fog. Jack Frost might even make an early appearance...!
- The reporters can interview the farmers about what autumn means to them, how much hard work is involved in sowing seeds, nurturing the growing crops, then bringing in the harvest, not to mention how early they have to get up every morning to start work!
- The reporters can also interview animals, such as a hedgehog getting ready to hibernate, a squirrel gathering food in readiness for the winter, or a swallow getting ready to fly south for the winter.
- The reporters could even interview a scarecrow! He could tell them all about his hard work through the summer scaring off all the "flying pests" to keep the crops safe, and how he's looking forward to a well-earned rest now his job is over for another year.



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SAMPLE CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

What makes different fruit and vegetables special? Test your knowledge with these multiple-choice questions - just put a tick in the correct boxes. Good luck!

1. What colour is a carrot?

Green

Red

Orange



2. What shape is an orange?

Square

Round

Triangle



3. Which of these fruits have pips inside?

Orange

Banana

Apple

4. Which of these grow in the ground?

Cabbage

Onion

Potato



5. What of these grow above ground?

Tomato

Carrot

Melon

6. Which of these has a thick skin or peel?

Raspberry

Banana

Strawberry



7. Which of these grow in pods?

Peas

Grapes

Beans



8. Which of these is a citrus fruit?

Lemon

Banana

Orange

9. Which of this is used as a decoration at Halloween?

Marrow

Beetroot

Pumpkin



SAMPLE CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Trees that lose their leaves in autumn are called deciduous trees. Hunt through the grid to find all the deciduous trees listed at the bottom of the page. Words run from top to bottom, or left to right - how many can you find...?

C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T	X
M	Y	Z	W	I	L	L	O	W
A	B	B	C	U	Q	R	T	Z
P	O	P	L	A	R	I	G	H
L	S	T	Y	K	L	M	N	A
E	R	E	Q	V	W	L	I	Z
C	S	Y	C	A	M	O	R	E
R	T	E	H	S	N	A	O	L
S	D	F	A	H	B	K	C	D

OAK

HAZEL

SYCAMORE

WILLOW

MAPLE

POPLAR

ASH

CHESTNUT

WHY LEAVES TURN BROWN

There are two kinds of trees - evergreen trees stay green all year round, but deciduous trees lose their leaves in the autumn.

The leaves are where trees make their own food. They use sunlight, water from the ground, and a gas called carbon dioxide to make a special kind of sugar in the green part of the leaves.

The tree uses the sugar for food, and also gives out oxygen for us to breathe.

During the autumn, the days are shorter and there is less sunlight for trees to make food. Trees will start to rest, and live off the food they made during the summer.

Because the leaves can no longer make food, the tree closes them down. The green colour disappears, leaving behind the colours we couldn't see before - yellow and orange.

Some leaves turn brown because of waste trapped inside. Some leaves turn red because of food left inside. Because the leaves are no longer needed to make food, they fall off.

We all need trees to live, so we must always take care of them.



AUTUMN HAS BEGUN

Green leaves of summer
Turn red, gold and brown,
They glow in the chill autumn breeze.

Their moment is over,
They soon flutter down,
To lie in a pile near the trees.

Hedgerows are filling
With berries of red,
Squirrels hide food that they find.

Spiders weave cobwebs
Of silvery threads,
And warm days are left far behind.

Hear the birds cry,
As they fly to the sun,
The beat of their wings in the sky.

There's no mistaking
That autumn's begun,
And summer has waved us goodbye.



All about Autumn



Autumn is the **third new season** of the year, after spring and summer, and before winter.

The autumn months are **September, October and November**. In the **southern hemisphere of the world**, the autumn months are March, April and May.



The **autumn equinox** is a date around 23rd September when the day and the night are exactly the same length. The only other time this happens is in the **spring equinox** around 20th March.



The word **autumn** comes from an ancient word meaning "the passing of the year". The word was then borrowed by the Romans and became the Latin word **autumnus**.



It was only during the 18th Century that British people began to call the season autumn. Until the 15th Century, the season was called **harvest**. During the 16th Century, it was often called **fall** (shortened from "fall of the leaf"). When English settlers moved to North America in the 17th Century they take the name with them, which is why Americans still call it **fall**.



Many countries celebrate autumn with a harvest festival. In America, this is known as **Thanksgiving**. People who travel around America looking for autumn colours are called **leaf peepers!**



In his poem, "To Autumn" (written in September 1819), famous poet John Keats described autumn as the "**Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness**".