



The Nation's Favorite Fun Family Newspaper  
Kidsville News! Brainworks Worksheet  
October Enrichment Activities  
Grades 3-6

Students: After reading "Connections," answer the following questions in your own words. Answer in complete sentences.



1. How do we know when fall has arrived? Compare and contrast the different ways.
2. What happens when leaves change colors?
3. Describe fall weather and how to prepare for it.
4. What special occasions occur in fall?
5. What evidence in the article reveals fall as the harvest season?



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**Students:** After reading "Around the World" match the description on the right below with the correct festival listed on the left. Each festival has more than one descriptor. Draw a line to show matches.

**Festivals**

**Descriptions**

1. Germany - Oktoberfest

A November festival where families and friends decorate and float small baskets and place them on rivers, ponds and lakes

2. Mexico - Día de los Muertos

A Harvest Festival which commemorate the gathering of crops at the end of the farming season

3. Thailand – Loy Krathong

A late September to early October celebration that commemorates the 1810 marriage of Prince Ludwig

4. China and East Asia – Mid-Autumn Festival

Also called the Moon Festival held on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month in September or October

5. United Kingdom – Harvest Festival

Famous for dancing, music, pretzels and sausages

Also known as Day of the Dead, a celebration taking place from October 31 to November 2

Pays respect to the water spirits and to seek forgiveness for any harm done to sources of water

Mooncakes, a sweet pastry made from the seeds of the lotus plant, are a feature.

Families honor loved ones who have passed away.

Churches are decorated with flowers and food, and communities donate food to those in need.



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Students: After reading "Wildville," fill in the circle map below with attributes about squirrels. Complete sentences are not needed.

Squirrels



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**Answer Key**



**Students:** After reading “Connections,” answer the following questions in your own words. Answer in complete sentences.  
**Parents and teachers:** Answers are below.

**1. How do we know when fall has arrived? Compare and contrast the different ways.**

We know fall has arrived by the temperature, as fall temps are cooler than summer. days get shorter and the nights get longer while the temperature gets cooler. Another sign is in the tree colors; Tree leaves change colors as a reaction to the lower temps. We know fall has arrived by the calendar, when it is September to November. We know fall has arrived by the astronomical calendar; fall lasts until the winter solstice, which is usually around December.

**2. What happens when leaves change colors?**

When trees change color a chemical process is happening. Tree leaves are naturally green because the leaves make a chemical called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll allows the leaves to make their own food using sunlight. Because the days get shorter the leaves don't need to make as much chlorophyll and the yellow, red and orange colors which were covered by the green chlorophyll start to show.

**3. Describe fall weather and how to prepare for it.**

Since the weather around this time is cooler, warmer clothing is needed. The weather isn't the same throughout the fall, however. Some days may be sunny and warm, while others can be rainy and windy.

**4. What special occasions occur in fall?**

Thanksgiving is one of the most popular fall holidays. Many families celebrate Thanksgiving by gathering to share a large meal and give thanks. Halloween is also another popular fall occasion. Occurring October 31, this observance features children dressing up in costumes, trick-or-treating and attending fun festivals.

**5. What evidence in the article reveals fall as the harvest season?**

The article states that fall is also known as the harvest season because this is when farmers gather many of the fruits and vegetables, for example, pumpkins, planted during summer and spring.



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Festivals	Descriptions
1. Germany - Oktoberfest	A November festival where families and friends decorate and float small baskets and place them on rivers, ponds and lakes
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	Also known as Day of the Dead, a celebration taking place from October 31 to November 2
	Pays respect to the water spirits and to seek forgiveness for any harm done to sources of water
	Mooncakes, a sweet pastry made from the seeds of the lotus plant, are a feature.
	Families honor loved ones who have passed away.
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Answer Key

Students: After reading "Wildville," fill in the circle map the missing words in the sentences that describe squirrels. Parents and teachers: The answers are below.

Squirrels are small furry animals that have slim bodies, big eyes and bushy tails.

They hide nuts and other food in the fall to help them make it through the winter when food is scarce.

The African pygmy squirrel can measure as little as 3 inches and the marmot squirrel can become over 3 feet long.

Small but varies in size by the species

They have big teeth like mice and rats.

## Squirrels

Their big front teeth, the incisors, allow them to crack open nuts. They also eat seeds, pinecones, fruit and plants. They sometimes will eat other, smaller animals.

Their strong claws help them climb trees well. They also have great eyesight and whiskers that help them feel around.

They have to make a layer of fat to help them stay warm in the winter.

Their fur is usually smooth, but on some squirrels, it's thick and rough.

Squirrels especially love nuts, including acorns, chestnuts, pecans and walnuts, due to their high fat content.