



The Nation's Favorite Fun Family Newspaper
Kidsville News! Brainworks Worksheet
October Enrichment Activities
Grades K-2



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

1. How are the dates for the autumn season determined? Explain two ways.
2. Why do the colors of leaves change in fall?
3. What are the appropriate ways to dress in the fall season?
4. What special occasions occur in fall?
5. Why is fall known 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 the missing words in the sentences that describe squirrels.

Squirrels are small _____ ani-
mals that have slim _____ big
eyes and bushy tails.

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

The African pygmy squirrel can measure as little as _____
and the marmot squirrel can become over _____.

Small but varies in
size by the _____

They have big _____
like mice and _____.

Squirrels

Their big front teeth, _____ allow them to crack open _____. They also eat
_____, _____ and _____. They sometimes will eat other,
smaller _____.

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

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

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

Squirrels especially love nuts, including _____,
_____ and _____ due
to their high _____ content.



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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 are the dates for the autumn season determined? Explain two ways.

Based on temperature, fall occurs from September to November.
Based on the astronomical calendar, fall lasts until the winter solstice, which is usually around December 21 or 22.

2. Why do the colors of leaves change in fall?

Leaf color changes as a reaction to the temperature change that occurs in fall. 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. What are the appropriate ways to dress in the fall season?

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. Why is fall known as the harvest season?

Fall is also known as the harvest season because this is when farmers gather many of the fruits and vegetables planted during summer and spring. For example, pumpkins are ready to pick this month.



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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.
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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.