Exploring the Four Seasons through the Senses!

**WebQuest Description**: The seasons are full of things that stimulate the senses! Through this WebQuest, we are going to learn about some of the different things we experience during each of the seasons.

*Image from http://i55.photobucket.com/albums/g142/jooshh/Four_seasons.jpg*

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### Introduction

Each year, we experience four different seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. The changes of season are a feast for our senses! We can use our senses of See, Smell, Hear, Taste, and Touch to enjoy what each different season has to offer.  

**With what are some things that we taste when it is Fall?**  
**What are some of the things we see when it is Summer?**  
**We are going to learn about what makes each season exciting and unique with our senses!**

*Image from [http://www.instantdisplay.co.uk/seasons.JPG](http://www.instantdisplay.co.uk/seasons.JPG)*

### Tasks

With the help of a teacher or parent, you will go to each of the four different Season Stations.  

**Each station will focus on two things we experience with our senses during that season.**

*Identify what senses you used at the station (Did you use your nose to smell?  Your eyes to see? etc.) and what it your experience was like.**

**When you have completed this task, you will draw a picture of each season and include some of the things that you experienced at each station.**


### Process

**First, go to station 1.**  
**This station is the Spring Station.**  
**Spring is the time of year when flowers are blooming!**  
**There are flowers on the table.**  
**What do they look like?**  
**What colors are they?**  
**Do they have leaves?**  
**Do they have long stems?**  
**Do the flowers have stripes or dots of them?**  
**What are some of the other things you see on the flowers?**  
**Spring time is also when lots of baby animals are born!**  
**Baby animals, like baby humans, are often very noisy.**  
**We are going to listen to some different animals sounds and see if we can identify what they are.**  
**Do you know what these animals look like?**  
**Do you like these animals?**  
**Can you think of anything else that happens during Spring?**  
**Are there any Holidays that you celebrate during Spring?**  
**Which senses (see, smell, taste, touch, hear) did you use at this station?**

**Next, go to station 2.**  
**This is the Summer Station.**  
**During the summer the weather can be hot and people want to go on vacation!**  
**A popular vacation spot during summer is the beach!**  
**Have you ever been to the beach?**  
**At the beach, you can go swimming, but you have to walk through the sand to get to the ocean.**  
**First, take off your shoes and socks and put your feet into the box of sand.**  
**Be careful not to kick the sand!**  
**What does the sand feel like?**  
**Does it stick between your toes?**  
**Put your feet in the tub of water.**  
**What does that feel like?**  
**Is the water cold or warm?**  
**Now you can dry your feet off with the towel and put your shoes back on.**  
**Now we are going to listen to the CD of people playing at the beach.**  
**What are some of the different things you hear them doing?**  
**Can you hear the waves?**  
**Do you hear any birds?**  
**Do people sound like they are happy or sad?**  
**Can you think of anything else that happens during Summer?**  
**What do you like to do when it is hot outside?**  
**Which senses (see, smell, taste, touch, hear) did you use at this station?**

**Next, go to station 3.**  
**This is the Fall Station.**  
**Fall has some very special seasonal foods!**  
**Can you identify what these foods are?**  
**What colors are these foods?**  
**What does that feel like?**  
**Can you think of anything else that happens during Fall that you enjoy?**  
**Which senses (see, smell, touch, hear) did you use at this station?**  
**Now, you can go to station 4.**  
**This is the Winter Station.**  
**Winter is a special season because it is the only season when it snows outside!**  
**Have you ever seen snow?**  
**Snow is made up of very small pieces of ice that are called snowflakes.**  
**Another thing that happens during winter is that people can go ice skating.**  
**You are going to touch some ice.**  
**What does it feel like?**  
**When you hold it in your hand, what happens to the ice?**  
**A very big holiday happens during winter, Christmas!**  
**Christmas has some very special smells that we are going to learn about.**  
**You are going to smell a few different things and see if you can figure out what you are smelling.**  
**Have you ever smelled these things before?**  
**Do you know what these things look like?**  
**What do we do with these things, do we eat them?
The Winter Station needs to have some ice provided for the child to hold in their hands. Also, there should be samples of peppermint, a Christmas tree, and a cinnamon stick, or candles or some other item that features those fragrances. A blindfold should also be provided here so that the child is forced to use their sense of smell to identify them.

The Fall Station needs to be set up with either pictures or real samples of different kinds of colorful leaves. It also needs to have pieces of apples and pumpkin bread, pumpkin pie, or some other food item that is pumpkin flavored. The child should be blindfolded when trying these foods so that they have to use their sense of taste to identify them.

The Summer Station needs to have a tub of sand and a tub of water for children to put their bare feet in, to simulate the ocean. There also needs to be a CD or tape player with sounds of people at the beach so that the child can listen to it and make connections to their life and prior knowledge.

The Spring Station will be set up with different kinds of flowers (can be real or fake) that are their favorite? Web sites to check out and learn more about the seasons:

- http://www.first-school.ws/theme/cpseasons.htm
- http://www.nataliedee.com/031104/seasons.jpg

Congratulations! You have learned all about the different seasons by using your senses of See, Hear, Smell, Taste and Touch. We only talked about a few things that are special to each season, but there are very, very many! Which season is your favorite? It is designed to use multisensory tools to teach children about nature and the world around them. The goal is to teach them to make connections between things we experience with our senses and the different seasons, while also broadening the child's schemas. Another focus of this project is to help students learn how to express themselves using descriptive words and complete sentences, as well as through drawing to portray what they have learned. When setting up this project, there will be four different stations for each season. Each station will have two different activities that focus on using a specific sense to learn about that season. The Spring Station will be set up with different kinds of flowers (can be real or fake) that have different colors, shapes, leaves, stems, etc. There also needs to be a CD or tape player with sounds of different animals on them. The animals ideally will be birds, sheep, farm animals, or other animals that reproduce and are iconic of spring.

The Summer Station needs to have a tub of sand and a tub of water for children to put their bare feet in, to simulate the ocean. There also needs to be a CD or tape player with sounds of people at the beach so that the child can listen to it and identify different things they hear. The Fall Station needs to be set up with either pictures or real samples of different kinds of colorful leaves. It also needs to have pieces of apples and pumpkin bread, pumpkin pie, or some other food item that is pumpkin flavored. The child should be blindfolded when trying these foods so that they have to use their sense of taste to identify them. The Winter Station needs to have some ice provided for the child to hold in their hands. Also, there should be samples of peppermint, a Christmas tree, and a cinnamon stick, or candles or some other item that features those fragrances. A blindfold should also be provided here so that the child is forced to use their sense of smell to identify them.