

Year 3 lesson plan

Title: **Seasons, Traditions and Belonging**

Age group: Year 3

Length: 60 minutes

Resource:

- The Seasons of Belonging – Oral History Exhibition
<https://www.cranecreatives.co.uk/the-seasons>
- Folk Crafts & Rhythms project page
<https://www.cranecreatives.co.uk/folkcraftsandrythms>

Main subjects: Art, English, Geography, PSHE

Curriculum fit: KS2 includes English, geography, history, art and design and languages; art and design should help pupils explore ideas and understand how art contributes to culture and creativity.

Learning objectives

By the end of the lesson, pupils will be able to:

Understand that different cultures celebrate seasons in different ways.

Create a small piece of artwork.

Talk respectfully about traditions, identity and belonging.

Lesson structure

1. Starter: What do seasons mean to us?

Time: 5 min

Ask children:

- What is your favourite season and why?
- What do you notice in nature during spring, summer, autumn or winter?
- Do you have any family traditions linked to seasons, food, music, clothes or celebrations?

Teacher note: keep this open and gentle. Some children may not feel they have “cultural traditions”, so include everyday examples such as warm food in winter, family walks, birthdays, planting seeds, festivals, songs or visiting relatives.

2. Introduce The Seasons resource

Time: 10 minutes

Show the Crane Creatives webpage and explain:

This project explores seasons through traditional crafts, culture, stories, dance, music, and traditions. Today we are going to think about how seasons connect people to nature, family and community.

Ask:

- Why might people sing, dance, cook or make art to celebrate a season?
- Why are traditions important?
- Can two families celebrate the same season differently?

3. Cultural comparison activity

Time: 10 minutes

Choose one season, for example spring.

Create a simple class comparison:

In the UK	In another culture or family tradition. Can list things what they found on Crane Creatives website.

Children work in pairs and complete the sentence:

“In spring, some people might... but in another family or culture, people might...”

When people move away from their country of origin, they often like to keep and practise the traditions that are important to them. Sharing these traditions with others helps keep them alive and gives everyone the opportunity to learn about and enjoy different cultures, as people have done it in Folk Crafts & Rhythms project.

Ask:

- Why do you think traditions are important to some families?
- How can sharing traditions help people feel welcome in a new place?
- Have you ever learnt about a tradition from another culture? What did you enjoy?
- Do you have a family tradition that is special to you? It could be linked to a celebration, food, music, nature or spending time together.
- Why is it good to learn about traditions from different countries?
- What traditions do you think are worth passing on to future generations?
- How can learning about other people's traditions help us understand each other better?
- What traditions would you like to share with your friends?

These questions encourage children to think about identity, belonging, respect and community, while also recognising that every child has traditions, whether they are linked to a particular culture, religion, family or simply everyday life.

This supports geography, spoken language and cultural understanding.

4. Creative task: My season symbol

Time: 20 minutes

Across Europe, people have used symbols for hundreds of years to tell stories, celebrate the seasons and bring good fortune. These symbols have been passed down from generation to generation and are an important part of traditional culture. No one knows exactly who created many of them because families and communities have shared and used them for hundreds of years. People painted, carved, embroidered and wove these symbols onto everyday objects and special decorations to celebrate important occasions and express their hopes, beliefs and connection to nature.

Show examples from The Seasons resource and explain that symbols could be found on:

- clothing and embroidered costumes
- blankets and woven textiles
- pottery and clay pots
- wooden spoons and bowls
- furniture and chests
- doors and gateways (to welcome visitors or offer protection)
- houses and barns
- Easter eggs
- wedding gifts
- musical instruments
- seasonal festival decorations

We invite you to create your own symbol that tells a story or represents something special.

Think about:

What would you like your symbol to represent?

Who is it for?

Where would people use it?

Why is it important?

Is it linked with a season or not?

Is your symbol connected to a particular season? If so, which one and why?

Draw your symbol on squared paper, using simple shapes and repeating patterns, just like traditional folk artists.

When you have finished, write:

My symbol means...

People would use it on...

I designed it because...

5. Reflection circle

Time: 5 minutes

Ask:

Why is it good to learn about different traditions?

Finish with:

“Different traditions help us understand each other. They show how people connect to nature, family, place and belonging.”

How a Year 3 teacher could use this resource

A Year 3 teacher could use The Seasons as:

- a one-off cultural learning lesson
- an art and design project
- a creative writing stimulus
- a music and movement session
- a PSHE lesson about identity and belonging
- a geography lesson comparing places and cultures
- a school display or mini exhibition

Follow-up activity

Ask pupils to interview someone at home/family learning

“What season is important in our family, and why?”

Interview a grandparent.

Find a seasonal recipe.

Ask someone about their favourite celebration.

They can bring back one word, story, object, recipe, song, colour or memory. This makes the project more meaningful and allows cultural representation to come from the children’s own communities.

Other questions that can be used for discussion after home/family learning:

Why do traditions change?

Can traditions be shared?

What makes somewhere feel like home?

Why do people celebrate the seasons?

What traditions would you like to pass on?

What similarities can we find between different cultures?