

Autumn



What Happens in Autumn?

- Autumn is one of the four seasons. It is the season that comes after summer. Autumn begins in Britain on the Autumnal Equinox in September and finishes on the Winter Solstice in December.
- During autumn, the days get shorter and there is less sunlight. This is because the sun is further away from the Northern Hemisphere. During this time it will be Spring in the Southern Hemisphere.
- The days start to get colder because of the sunlight being weaker.
- Leaves start to turn bright colours and fall off the trees.
- Animals begin storing food for the winter.
- Many festivals are celebrated and food is harvested.



What Happens to the Trees?

During autumn, the leaves on trees turn bright colours and fall off their branches. This is how it happens:

- Leaves contain something called chlorophyll which turns them green. Without chlorophyll, leaves start to turn to different shades of orange and yellow. The leaves need sunlight and water to produce food that is then stored inside the leaf.
- There isn't enough sunlight in autumn to produce any food, so the leaves start to lose chlorophyll and turn orange or yellow.
- When all the stored food has gone, the leaves start to die and turn brown. When they have died they fall from the tree.



What Happens to the Animals?

Click on an animal to find out.



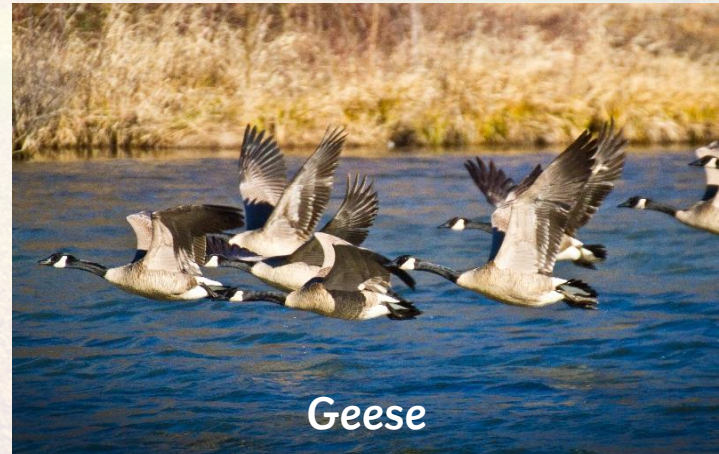
Hedgehogs



Squirrels



Wasps



Geese

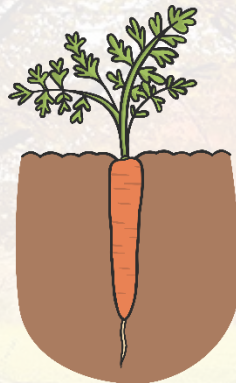
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What Foods Are Harvested?

During Autumn, many foods are harvested. Some countries have a harvest festival to celebrate the harvest. Here are some foods that are harvested in autumn;



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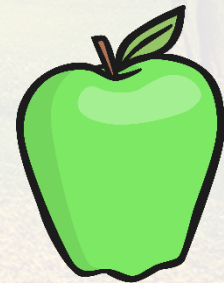
carrots



sweetcorn



cauliflower



apples

What Is Celebrated in Autumn?

Halloween

On 31st October, many people around the world celebrate Halloween. Children dress up in costumes and go trick-or-treating, where they knock on doors and receive sweets.

The pumpkin, which is harvested in autumn, is carved into silly or scary faces that are lit up with candles.

Halloween originates from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain in the area now known as Ireland. It is now celebrated in many countries around the world, including USA, Canada and New Zealand.



What Is Celebrated in Autumn?

Bonfire Night

On 5th November, Bonfire Night is celebrated in Britain. It is to remember Guy Fawkes' plot to blow up parliament.

Bonfire Night is celebrated by watching firework displays and lighting sparklers, eating certain foods, such as jacket potatoes and toffee apples, and burning Guy Fawkes dummies on bonfires.



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What Is Celebrated in Autumn?

Diwali

Each autumn, many Sikhs and Hindus celebrate Diwali, the festival of light, which marks the start of the Hindu New Year. It is an important religious festival that originated in India. The exact date changes from year to year. In 2019, it starts on 27th October and lasts five days.

Diwali celebrates the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. Diwali (or Dipavali) is the Sanskrit word for **row of lights** and people decorate their homes with lights and lamps. Some Hindus celebrate the return of Rama and from exile and others worship Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth and fortune.

People also enjoy spending time with their family and exchanging presents and sweets. Rangoli patterns are traditionally drawn to welcome the gods and bring good fortune. There are also firework displays.



What Is Celebrated in Autumn?

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day, also called Armistice Day or Poppy Day, is on the 11th November each year and commemorates the signing of the armistice which led to the end of the First World War.

It is also commemorated by many countries across the world and is a chance to remember those fallen soldiers and victims of war who have given their lives for our freedom today.

In the UK, at 11 o'clock on the 11th November, a two-minute silence is held. Remembrance Sunday is the Sunday closest to the 11th November.

People wear poppies from early November and make donations to the Royal British Legion, a charity which supports members and veterans of the British Armed Forces.

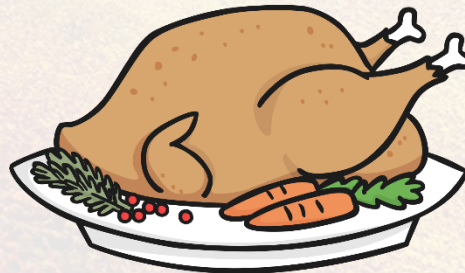


What Is Celebrated in Autumn?

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in America. It dates back to 1621, the year after Puritans arrived in Massachusetts. After suffering a harsh winter, they asked neighbouring Native Americans for help. The Native Americans taught them how to plant corn and other crops, and during the bountiful harvest the following autumn, the Pilgrims were inspired to give thanks by holding a feast.

This feast became a tradition, and every year Americans celebrate by holding a Thanksgiving feast. The feast includes some of the foods served at the first ever feast: roast turkey, cranberry sauce, potatoes and then pumpkin pie for dessert. Before the feast starts, the families or friends give thanks for their blessing.



What Is Celebrated in Autumn?

Other Events from around the World

Black History Month - October each year, various countries

A month to celebrate, remember and honour the achievements of black men and women throughout history.

Shichi-go-san – 15th November, Japan

A traditional rite of passage to celebrate and pray for the health of children as they reach the lucky ages of three, five and seven years old.

St. Andrew's Day – 30th November, Scotland

Many people dance a Ceilidh to remember the patron saint of Scotland.

