Theme: **Seasons of the Year**

First: **Short introduction** [slide 2]

Next: ***Demeter and Persephone -***
[Fiction text - myth] [slides 3- 5]
- **read** and **talk about**
- **answer questions** to check understanding
+ **writing task** in character [slides 6-9]

Why the Leaves Lose their Leaves
- **read** and **talk about** [slides 10-11]
- **long answer question** testing higher understanding [slides 12]

Then: ***Advice on Visiting London***
[Higher Challenge - *Non-fiction text]*
[slides 13-14]
- **read** and **discuss**
- **identify + list** Facts + Advice [slides 15]

Finally: **My Favourite Season?**
- writing **expressing a personal opinion**
[slide 16-19]

What are we learning in this pack?

Learning Focus: Thinking about what happens when the seasons change. Practising skills reading fiction + non-fiction texts and writing extended answers.

First **Fiction: Myths**
Demeter and Persephone [*Ancient Greece]*
Why the Leaves Lose their Leaves [Cherokee]

Next **Non-Fiction: Visiting London**
[Advice about the weather to American visitors]

Finally: **Writing- Expressing a Personal Opinion**
Focus: Explaining in detail giving examples.

Setting Context: [Myth – short fiction texts]

Can you name the four seasons of the year and months that belong to each season? Which is your favourite and why? [Check at the end of these stories to find the answers and which season I like best.]

Question: Do we need to cold of Winter so that we can fully enjoy the warmth of Summer? Can we enjoy the beauty of Spring when nature wakes up without the glorious colours Autumn brings when nature prepares for Winter? The one thing we all know is that the seasons change, each brings different weather causing changes to happen in the world around us. We now understand science and how our planet works but a long, long, long, long, LONG time ago – even before your teachers were born! – people didn't. Instead they made up stories which got passed from one generation to the next and are still told today. We call these stories myths. All around the world in different countries and cultures people have tried to explain what they observed around them; the following stories all focus on explanations of the change of the seasons.

Each season has its place and is part of the cycle of life on this planet. Each new season makes us look again at the world around us.

myth = a story which was made up long ago to explain natural events and religious belief.

generation = all the people born and living at one time; in families there can be grandparents, parents, children.

‘***Persephone and Demeter***’ The Greek Story of Spring. **Read, talk about** and *<u>then</u>* **make brief notes.** Focus: Reading comprehension, sequencing a short story, writer’s use of language.

The story of Persephone and Demeter is one of the most widely known and most popular myths about the changing of the seasons.

The story begins with the beautiful Persephone, the daughter of the goddess of the harvest Demeter and Zeus, the king of the gods. Persephone was the goddess of Spring. Whenever Demeter visited the fields she would bring Persephone with her and where Persephone danced flowers bloomed. As a goddess she had many who wished to marry her, but it was Hades, the dark god of the Underworld, who decided that she would be his bride.

He bided his time until one day Persephone had strayed from her mother and was alone in a meadow. Hades knew that this was his chance. With a roar like thunder Hades’ chariot, pulled by four enormous powerful horses, sprang up from under the ground. He swiftly capture Persephone and took her back to his kingdom where he kept her there as his bride. Her mother Demeter was devastated.

<u>Ancient Greece</u> = 776 BC – 323 BC **Gods & Goddesses** = in ancient Greece there were 12 that were worshipped: Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Hades, Aphrodite, Apollo, Ares, Artemis, Athena, Hephaestus, Hestia, Hermes (also sometimes included Demeter, Dionysus).

Demeter set out to wander the earth to find her daughter, and for every minute Persephone was missing not a single crop would grow. Now wherever she walked the fields turned brown, flowers withered and died, leaves fell from the trees, ice covered the ground and nothing grew. As people starved, Zeus regretted the role he had played in the kidnap. It was he who had given Hades the tip off about where Persephone and her mother were walking that day...

Finally, Zeus could watch the suffering of the people on Earth no more. He summoned his swiftest messenger, Hermes and told him to go and tell Hades to release Persephone. Hades did as he was commanded however he devised a cunning plan to ensure that Persephone would have to return to him. Whilst she had lived in his kingdom she had refused to eat because she was so unhappy however now, with the prospect of freedom, she readily accepted his offer of food for her journey home.

When Demeter was overjoyed to be reunited with her daughter once more however when she heard that she had eaten the fruit of the Underworld in the form of a handful of pomegranate seeds, she wept again. Zeus was watching and knew that Persephone had to go back to Hades but he also knew that Demeter would never get over the loss of Persephone but the law had to be obeyed. But Zeus was king of the gods and that is not something you get to be unless you're very good at solving problems! He ordered that Persephone would spend half the year in the Underworld as the wife of Hades, and the other half of the year with her mother.

This was agreed, and now every time Persephone descends into the Underworld to take up her crown as queen, a saddened Demeter causes the crops to die and cold winter to sweep the land, but every time she is returns, everything bursts into joyous bloom and Spring lights up the world once more.

What did Persephone think about all of this? Legends differ, but it seems most agree that despite the unusual start, Persephone came to love her husband Hades and they had a pretty happy marriage. Orphic Hymns from 3 BC refer to Persephone as “Haides’, dread empress Persephone.” Other stories mention her jealousy when a nymph tried to steal a kiss from Hades... She turned her into a mint plant apparently!

Either way, it all ended well - thanks for coming back every year Persephone!

<u>Check your understanding – answer these questions</u>: One has been done for you.

<u>Top Tip</u>: Some are 'retrieval (find it)' questions = you can find the answer in the story; some are 'inference and deduction (work it out)' questions = you need to use information in the story and work out the answer like a detective e.g. The giant was crying. Q. How did the giant feel?

1. Who was Demeter?

Demeter was Persephone's mother and the goddess of the harvest who caused the crops to grow. When she was unhappy the crops would wither and die in the fields.

2. Who was Zeus? _____

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3. Who was Persephone? _____

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4. Who was Hades?

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<u>Extended Writing Task</u>: Choose ONE of the characters and retell the story from their 'point of view'. Think about what happens and what that character might *<u>think</u>* or *<u>feel</u>*.

<u>Focus:</u> Write in character. Entertain your audience using descriptive language (see slide 9).

<u>Remember to review your work:</u> Make sure you have used punctuation to help your reader read your work in the way you intended. (. , ? ! “...”)

Quick Check: **Commonly Used ENGLISH TERMS**

proper nouns – name of a particular person, place or thing *e.g. **J**ames **S**mith, **L**ondon OR **S**tar **W**ars, **T**reasure **I**sland*

common nouns – are the names we give things *e.g. table, chair, hair, eyes, dog, cat, horse*

adjectives – describe the noun *e.g. She had **long**, **black** hair. The book he read about rivers was **boring**.*

verbs – doing or action words *e.g. running, crawling, walking, e.g. Jack always **runs** to school. Jane made a **mess** of her homework.*

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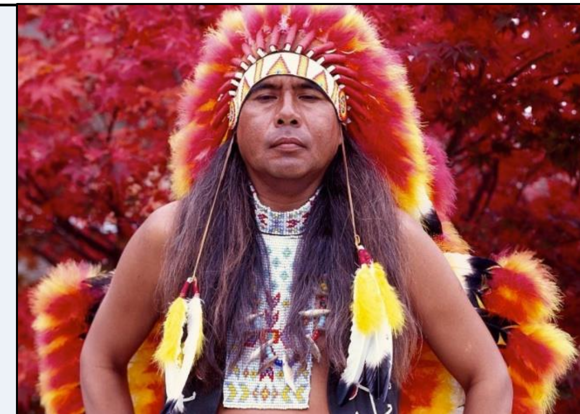
alliteration - the same sound or sounds, especially consonants, at the beginning of several words that are close together e.g. The **c**urious **c**at **st**ole **st**ealthily **d**own the **d**ark, **d**ismal alleyway.

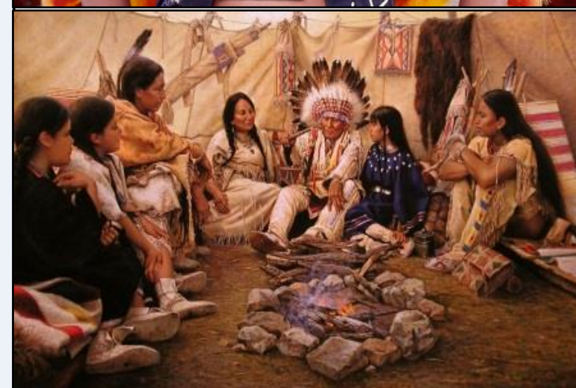
‘***Why the Trees Lose their Leaves***’ The Cherokee Story about the seasons. **Read, talk about** and *<u>then</u>* **make brief notes.** Focus: What is the moral (lesson) of this story?

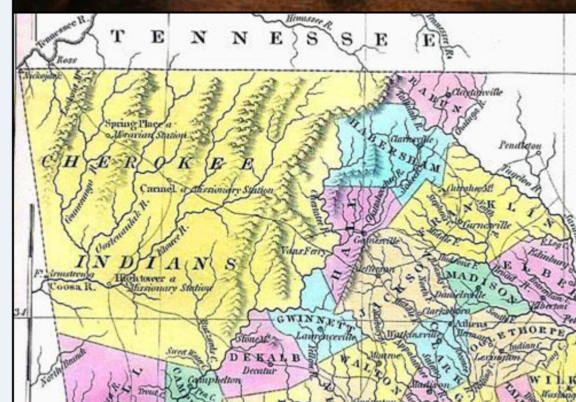
The Cherokee are North American Indians; their tribe is one of the biggest and most diverse. The word Cherokee means ‘people of different speech’ - many prefer to be known as Keetoowah or Tsalagi.

One of the most beautiful things to enjoy in the changing of the seasons is when the bright colours of summer fade into the warm golden browns of autumn. However, when the cold of winter creeps in, one of the things many of us miss are the leaves on the trees – the Cherokee reflected on why this happens and this is their story to explain why the trees lose their leaves.

A long, long time ago, back at the beginning of the world, plants and animals were able to communicate much like human beings do now. Everyone lived in harmony, and every year when the winter came, the birds would fly south for the winter to keep warm. However one year, Sparrow was injured and wasn't able to fly south once the winter came. Unwilling to let his family freeze to death simply because of him, he sent them along without him and began to look for shelter.



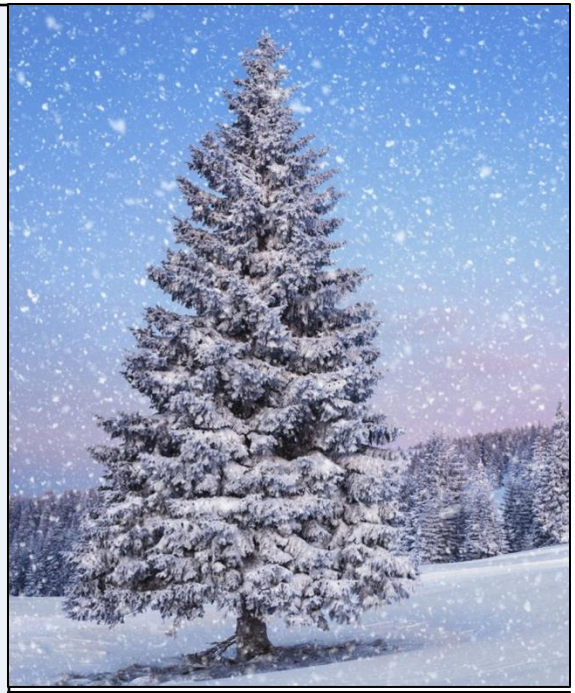




He came upon the Oak and asked for help, but the Oak didn't like the idea of someone using his branches as a second home during the winter, so he sent Sparrow on his way. When he went to the Maple, he received the same news, and so on and so forth until he finally at last came upon the Pine.

Now, the Pine wasn't very popular with the other trees due to the fact that its leaves were sharp like needles, but he welcomed Sparrow among its branches anyway, and for that Sparrow was thankful. Sparrow made a safe, warm nest and settled down to wait out the chill of the next few months. When Winter passed Sparrow had recovered. Happily he was able to welcome his family home from the south when Spring returned.

The Creator, who watched all of this, was not happy with what he had seen. He call a meeting with all the animals and trees. He turned angrily on the trees who had rejected Sparrow in times of need. He cursed their leaves to wither away when winter came due to their selfishness - all except for the Pine. While the Pine had the least amount to give, he still gave, and for that he was allowed to keep his leaves green no matter what the season.



<u>Longer Mark Question:</u> Demonstrate a deeper understanding of what you have read by answering this question. Make sure you express your ideas in detail explaining why.
What do you think the <u>moral</u> (lesson) of this Cherokee story is? Why is it particularly important to think about this during the winter months or difficult times?

<u>Short Non-Fiction Reading Task</u>: Advice to America tourists wanting to visit London about the weather. What is the advice? Have they got it right?

Carefully read the following information *<u>then</u>* have a go at answering the question.

London's weather is known for being quite unpredictable. In fact, Londoners regularly carry both sunglasses and an umbrella throughout the year! But London's weather is never so extreme as to take away from all the great things to do in the city.

The hottest month of the year is normally August when the top temperature can be 30 C but the average temperature in August is about 22 C. The coldest month is usually January when temperatures can sink to around 1 C F. Snow is pretty rare in London but if it does fall it's typically in January or February. Some rail services can be affected by bad weather conditions. Don't forget to check before you travel if the weather forecast says it is going to snow.

London is a year-round destination, so major attractions will be open whenever you visit. There's typically an increase in visitors in July and August so it's best to plan a trip at a different time of the year to avoid overcrowding.

In general, London's weather is mild year-round, but just remember to pack a lightweight raincoat to keep in your backpack. The seasons change gradually and winter can appear to still be hanging on when it should be spring, but the weather is never so bad to stop you from planning to get out and about.

London's Average Weather by Seasons

List 5 FACTS the writer tells the reader about the weather in London..

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List 3 bits of advice the writer tells the reader about visiting London.

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<u>Extended Writing Task Higher Challenge</u>: [Non-fiction] What is your favourite time of the year? Explain why. Do you understand why others might not like this time of year?

Focus: Explaining your thoughts in detail giving examples to explain why. Remember to use full stops and where capital letters should be.

My favourite season is winter because I love wearing my soft, cosy jumpers and snuggling up inside watching the wind blow and storms roar furiously outside knowing I'm safe and warm. I hate it when the weather is too hot and don't mind the cold. I actually enjoy walking in the rain with my dog and getting wet and muddy! Also, I always hope desperately that it will snow, it's exciting waiting to see if it will – and when it does, making snowmen and throwing snowballs with my friends is the best. Winter also has Christmas! I love the pretty lights shining in the dark skies in the town, helping decorate my home and enjoying an enormous, delicious Christmas dinner with my family.

I can understand why others might not enjoy this time of year. For an elderly person the cold can make them unwell and icy pavements are unsafe and so they might not be able to get out to the shops or see their friends. I think this time of year must be the hardest for homeless people and those who are alone – we need to make sure we donate money to charities who can help if we can afford it this year more than ever.

What do you think this writer did well?

_____

What could they do to make it even better?

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What is your favourite time of the year?

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If you want to do an illustration to go with your writing please do, we'd love to see it!

Add a drawing [illustration]: **My Favourite Season of the Year.**

Theme: **Seasons of the Year**

First: **Short introduction** [slide 2]

Next: ***Demeter and Persephone -***
[Fiction text - myth] [slides 3- 5]
- **read** and **talk about**
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Finally: **My Favourite Season?**
- writing **expressing a personal opinion**
[slide 16-19]

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Finally: **Writing- Expressing a Personal Opinion**
Focus: Explaining in detail giving examples.

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Can you name the four seasons of the year and months that belong to each season? Which is your favourite and why? [Check at the end of these stories to find the answers and which season I like best.]

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The story of Persephone and Demeter is one of the most widely known and most popular myths about the changing of the seasons.

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Demeter set out to wander the earth to find her daughter, and for every minute Persephone was missing not a single crop would grow. Now wherever she walked the fields turned brown, flowers withered and died, leaves fell from the trees, ice covered the ground and nothing grew. As people starved, Zeus regretted the role he had played in the kidnap. It was he who had given Hades the tip off about where Persephone and her mother were walking that day...

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<u>Extended Writing Task</u>: Choose ONE of the characters and retell the story from their 'point of view'. Think about what happens and what that character might *<u>think</u>* or *<u>feel</u>*.

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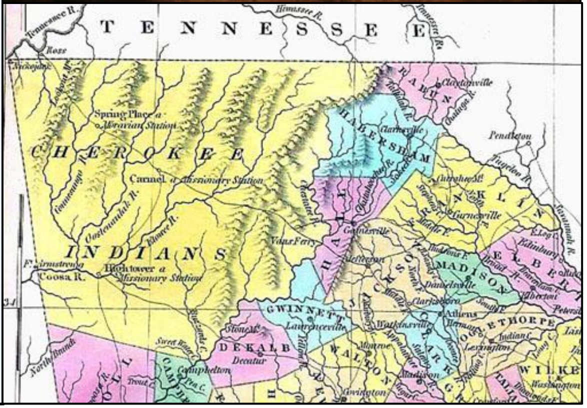
The Cherokee are North American Indians; their tribe is one of the biggest and most diverse. The word Cherokee means ‘people of different speech’ - many prefer to be known as Keetoowah or Tsalagi.

One of the most beautiful things to enjoy in the changing of the seasons is when the bright colours of summer fade into the warm golden browns of autumn. However, when the cold of winter creeps in, one of the things many of us miss are the leaves on the trees – the Cherokee reflected on why this happens and this is their story to explain why the trees lose their leaves.

A long, long time ago, back at the beginning of the world, plants and animals were able to communicate much like human beings do now. Everyone lived in harmony, and every year when the winter came, the birds would fly south for the winter to keep warm. However one year, Sparrow was injured and wasn't able to fly south once the winter came. Unwilling to let his family freeze to death simply because of him, he sent them along without him and began to look for shelter.



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Now, the Pine wasn't very popular with the other trees due to the fact that its leaves were sharp like needles, but he welcomed Sparrow among its branches anyway, and for that Sparrow was thankful. Sparrow made a safe, warm nest and settled down to wait out the chill of the next few months. When Winter passed Sparrow had recovered. Happily he was able to welcome his family home from the south when Spring returned.

The Creator, who watched all of this, was not happy with what he had seen. He call a meeting with all the animals and trees. He turned angrily on the trees who had rejected Sparrow in times of need. He cursed their leaves to wither away when winter came due to their selfishness - all except for the Pine. While the Pine had the least amount to give, he still gave, and for that he was allowed to keep his leaves green no matter what the season.

<u>Longer Mark Question:</u> Demonstrate a deeper understanding of what you have read by answering this question. Make sure you express your ideas in detail explaining why.
What do you think the <u>moral</u> (lesson) of this Cherokee story is? Why is it particularly important to think about this during the winter months or difficult times?

<u>Short Non-Fiction Reading Task</u>: Advice to America tourists wanting to visit London about the weather. What is the advice? Have they got it right?

Carefully read the following information *<u>then</u>* have a go at answering the question.

London's weather is known for being quite unpredictable. In fact, Londoners regularly carry both sunglasses and an umbrella throughout the year! But London's weather is never so extreme as to take away from all the great things to do in the city.

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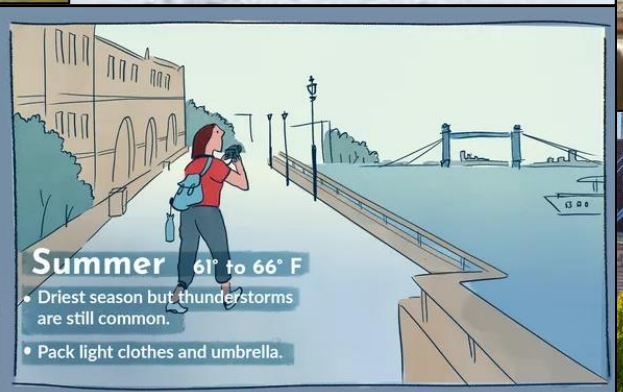

London's Average Weather by Seasons

List 5 FACTS the writer tells the reader about the weather in London..

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<u>Extended Writing Task Higher Challenge</u>: [Non-fiction] What is your favourite time of the year? Explain why. Do you understand why others might not like this time of year?

Focus: Explaining your thoughts in detail giving examples to explain why. Remember to use full stops and where capital letters should be.

My favourite season is winter because I love wearing my soft, cosy jumpers and snuggling up inside watching the wind blow and storms roar furiously outside knowing I'm safe and warm. I hate it when the weather is too hot and don't mind the cold. I actually enjoy walking in the rain with my dog and getting wet and muddy! Also, I always hope desperately that it will snow, it's exciting waiting to see if it will – and when it does, making snowmen and throwing snowballs with my friends is the best. Winter also has Christmas! I love the pretty lights shining in the dark skies in the town, helping decorate my home and enjoying an enormous, delicious Christmas dinner with my family.

I can understand why others might not enjoy this time of year. For an elderly person the cold can make them unwell and icy pavements are unsafe and so they might not be able to get out to the shops or see their friends. I think this time of year must be the hardest for homeless people and those who are alone – we need to make sure we donate money to charities who can help if we can afford it this year more than ever.

What do you think this writer did well?

_____

What could they do to make it even better?

_____

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If you want to do an illustration to go with your writing please do, we'd love to see it!

Add a drawing [illustration]: **My Favourite Season of the Year.**