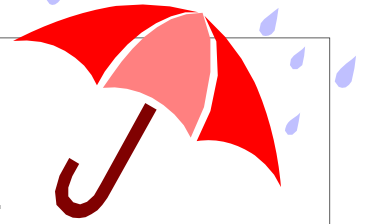


Autumn



Autumn is the season between summer and winter.

The autumn months in New Zealand are March, April and May.

Many leaves change colour and fall from the trees in autumn.

In autumn the air begins to cool and birds migrate to warmer climates.

In March we have the autumn equinox when the days and nights are of equal length.

While the soil is still warm, spring flowering seeds and bulbs are planted.

Some people celebrate the harvest festival in autumn.

Multi-choice questions:

1. Autumn is the season between

- (a) spring and summer
- (b) summer and winter
- (c) spring and winter

2. The autumn equinox is when

- (a) the days are longest
- (b) days and nights are the same
- (c) the nights are longest

3. In autumn the leaves

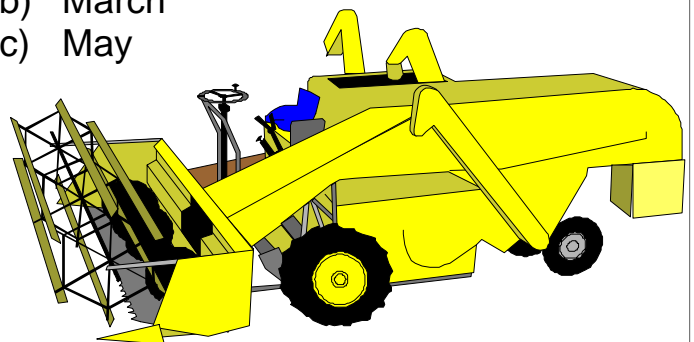
- (a) change colour
- (b) begin to grow
- (c) fly to warmer climates

4. Autumn in New Zealand begins in

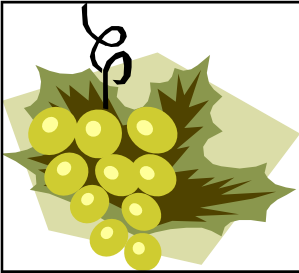
- (a) September
- (b) March
- (c) May

5. In autumn the weather is

- (a) wetter
- (b) warmer
- (c) cooler



Autumn Harvest



Grapes

Most grapes in New Zealand are harvested to make wine. A few varieties are grown for eating. These are called table grapes. Marlborough is an important grape growing area.



Pears

Pears are a pip fruit. Pip fruit is grown in orchards. Two important growing areas are Central Otago and Hawkes Bay. Apples are also pip fruit.



Corn

The corn we eat is known as sweetcorn. It is delicious cooked quickly and eaten with butter. Sweetcorn is harvested and processed by freezing or canning.



Pumpkin

Pumpkin is a favourite New Zealand vegetable. Roast pumpkin is often served with roast lamb. Pumpkin can be made into soup. Pumpkin is also known as squash. Squash is an important export product.



Wheat

Wheat and other grain crops are harvested in autumn. Grains are used for cereals and flour. The main area for grain crops is South Canterbury. New Zealand is not a large producer of grain crops.

WORD ASSOCIATION: With which of the above categories do you associate the following words?

oats vintage butternut maize vinyard ears barley nashi cob



Poem

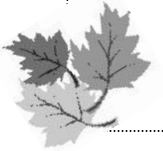
Autumn Leaves

Red leaves
_____ leaves.

In my _____
the tall _____ tree
is as old as my mother.
It makes a red leaf _____
on the ground.

Swish, swish, swish,
Swim in the sea of _____ .

oak garden carpet leaves gold



*Adapted from a poem by Laura Ranger, first published
in the NZ School Journal (1993)*

Match the verb in A with the phrase in B

A

harvest

wear

celebrate

sweep

pick

plant

B

the sweet apples

the corn

the daffodil bulbs

the fallen leaves

a good harvest

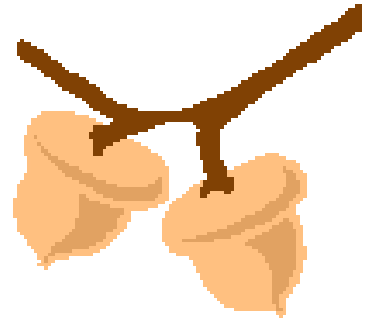
a warm jersey



Odd Word Out

Circle the odd word from each line.

1. leaves, branches, arms, trunk
2. grapes, apples, pears, pumpkin
3. jersey, handkerchief, coat, scarf
4. autumn, month, spring, summer
5. cold, red, orange, brown



WORDFIND

These words are hidden in the diagram:

AUTUMN	FAVOURITE	MIGRATION
CELEBRATE	FESTIVAL	SQUASH
CLIMATE	GRAPE	SWEETCORN
CROP	HARVEST	WHEAT



Other Ideas:

- Discuss other autumn crops.
- Collect a selection of autumn leaves to talk about.
- Talk about what autumn is like in your learner's country.
- Find out whether autumn festivals are celebrated in your learner's culture.
- Write an autumn weather diary.
- Take a walk and talk about what's happening in the neighbours' gardens.
- Check out the neat website about vegetables at:

www.vegetables.co.nz

