

All About Spring



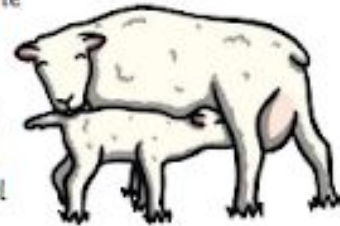
Spring is one of the four seasons. It is the season that comes after winter. Spring begins in March and ends in June. Spring is the season when we change our clocks forward one hour. We often have a mixture of sunny and rainy days. The length of the days increase as the season goes on and the nights get shorter.

What happens to the animals?

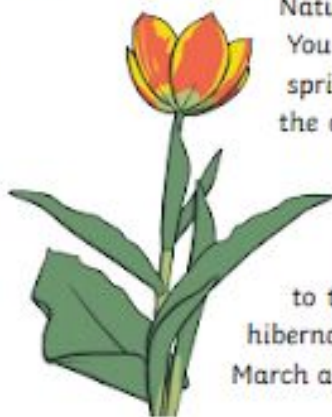
The animals that have been in hibernation through the winter come out on the first warm spring days. These can include hedgehogs, grass snakes, lizards, adders, frogs and toads. You might be able to see frogspawn, which looks like jelly. Toads can travel a long way to find their perfect pond to lay frogspawn.

Some other animals are more active in spring, such as squirrels. You are more likely to spot squirrels running about, looking for food and climbing trees.

There are also millions of migrant birds that come back to the UK in the spring. You might be able to see swifts, cuckoos, nightingales, warblers and chiffchaffs. Chiffchaffs are usually the first birds to appear and their 'chiffchaff' song can be heard from the tops of the trees. Beautiful birdsong is all around in spring.



What happens to the plants and insects?



Nature is very busy in spring and there are lots of changes. You can see the trees and bushes grow new leaves again in spring and many plants flower. They can do this because the air and soil are warmer and there are more daylight hours. Blossom appears first, then the leaves.

Many more insects can be spotted in spring, including butterflies and bees, which are attracted to the flowers. Queen bees that have lived through their hibernation during the winter come out on warm days in March and look for nectar and pollen from the flowers.

Which celebrations happen in spring?

Easter is a celebration that happens in spring. It started as a religious festival and now many people celebrate it with Easter chocolate eggs and a game or Easter egg hunt. It is called a 'moveable feast' because it is not on a fixed date each year. Easter Sunday always falls between 22nd March and 25th April. Easter Monday is a holiday where many people have the day off work. Most schools also have a holiday around this time, which lasts around two weeks.



Questions

1. What happens to the clocks in spring? Tick one.

- We change them back by one hour.
- We do nothing with them.
- We change them forward by one hour.

2. Find and copy one word that means to move about more.

3. What happens to the days and nights in spring? Tick one

- The days get longer and the nights get longer.
- The days get shorter and the nights get longer.
- The days get longer and the nights get shorter.

4. Complete the sentence by adding in the missing words.

_____ are usually the first birds to _____ and their 'chiffchaff' song can be heard from the tops of trees. Beautiful _____ is all around in spring.

5. Look at the paragraph What happens to the plants and insects?

Describe two of the changes that happen in spring in your own words.

6. Why is Easter called a moveable feast?
