

All About Spring

Spring is one of the four seasons. It begins after winter. It starts in March and ends in June. Spring is the season when people move their clocks forward one hour. There are more hours of daylight and fewer hours of darkness as the season goes on.

The weather in spring gets warmer and can be varied. It is often a mixture of sunny and rainy days.



Signs of Spring



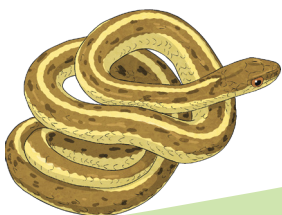
Spring is a season of many changes as the natural world begins to awaken after the cold winter months.

Animals

Some animals hibernate through the winter months and only come out as the weather warms up during spring. Hibernation is when animals go into a state that is like a very deep sleep. Their breathing and heart rate slow down so they can save energy.

Some Animals That Hibernate

bats dormice frogs
grass snakes hedgehogs toads



Spring is the time of year when many animals start to reproduce. Birds begin to build their nests ready for their eggs and frogs and toads begin to spawn in ponds.

Frogspawn or Toadspawn?

Frogspawn is laid in clumps but toadspawn is laid in long chains.



Many species of **migrant birds** return to the UK during spring. You might see swallows, swifts or house martins. These birds migrate from Africa.

swift



swallow



Did You Know...?

The journey from Africa is over 5000 miles. Swallows can fly up to 200 miles a day but it still takes them more than a month to get here!

Plants

Spring is a time of new growth. **Dormant** plants and trees begin to sprout new buds and shoots. New seedlings begin to grow and the first flowers of the year begin to bloom. Snowdrops are one of the earliest flowers that you might see.

Some Spring Flowers

bluebells crocuses daffodils
primroses tulips



bluebells



cowslip

tulips



snowdrops



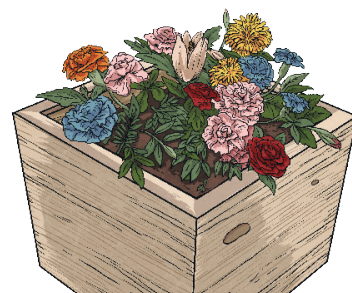
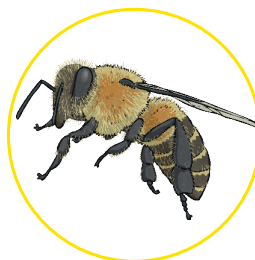
crocuses

Did You Know...?

Many spring flowers grow from a bulb.

Insects

There are many more insects around in spring too and they help flowering plants to make new seeds.



Glossary

dormant: Not active or growing but able to become active or grow in the future.

migrant bird: A bird that moves from one place to another for different seasons.

Questions

1. Look at the first paragraph. Which of the following is **not** a fact about spring? Tick one.

- ☐ Spring is one of the four seasons.
- ☐ Spring ends in July.
- ☐ Spring begins after winter.
- ☐ Spring starts in March.

2. Look at the sentence below. Underline the word which means 'of many different types'.

The weather in spring gets warmer and can be varied.

3. Number the sentences from 1-4 to show the order that they appear in the text.

- ☐ Spring is the time of year when animals start to reproduce.
- ☐ Spring is one of the four seasons.
- ☐ New seedlings begin to grow and the first flowers of the year begin to bloom.
- ☐ Spring is a time of new growth.

4. Which is one of the earliest flowers that you might see in spring? Tick one.

- ☐ roses
- ☐ snowdrops
- ☐ forget-me-nots
- ☐ sunflowers

5. Look at the section called **Animals**.

Find and copy one word which means 'when animals go into a state that is like a very deep sleep'.

6. How can you tell the difference between frogspawn and toadspawn?

7. Which part of spring do you think is the most interesting? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Look at the first paragraph. Which of the following is **not** a fact about spring? Tick one.

- ☐ Spring is one of the four seasons.
- ☒ **Spring ends in July.**
- ☐ Spring begins after winter.
- ☐ Spring starts in March.

2. Look at the sentence below. Underline the word which means 'of many different types'.

The weather in spring gets warmer and can be varied.

Award 1 mark for: varied

3. Number the sentences from 1-4 to show the order that they appear in the text.

- 2** Spring is the time of year when animals start to reproduce.
- 1** Spring is one of the four seasons.
- 4** New seedlings begin to grow and the first flowers of the year begin to bloom.
- 3** Spring is a time of new growth.

4. Which is one of the earliest flowers that you might see in spring? Tick one.

- ☐ roses
- ☒ **snowdrops**
- ☐ forget-me-nots
- ☐ sunflowers

5. Look at the section called **Animals**.

Find and copy one word which means 'when animals go into a state that is like a very deep sleep'.

hibernation

6. How can you tell the difference between frogspawn and toadspawn?

You can tell the difference between frogspawn and toadspawn because frogspawn is laid in clumps but toadspawn is laid in long chains.

7. Which part of spring do you think is the most interesting? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the migrant birds are the most interesting part of spring because it is amazing that they are able to fly such a long way.

All About Spring

Spring is one of the four seasons. It begins after winter. It starts in March and ends in June. There are more hours of daylight and fewer hours of darkness as the season goes on. The weather in spring gets warmer and can be varied. It is often a mixture of sunny and rainy days.



Spring is the season when people move their clocks forward one hour. This happens during March. The time after the clocks have moved forward is called 'British summer time'.

Fun Fact



'Spring forward' is a phrase that some people use to help them remember that the clocks are moved forward in spring.

Signs of Spring

Spring is a season of many changes as the natural world begins to awaken after the cold winter months come to an end.

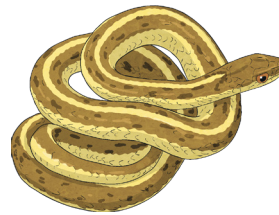
Animals

Many animals hibernate through the winter months and only emerge as the weather warms up during spring. Hibernation is not just a long sleep. It is a state like a deep sleep when animals slow down their breathing and heart rate to save energy.



Some Animals That Hibernate

bats dormice frogs
grass snakes hedgehogs toads



Spring is the time of year when many animals start to reproduce. Birds begin to build their nests ready for their eggs and frogs and toads begin to spawn in ponds.

Frogspawn or Toadspawn?

Frogspawn is laid in clumps but toadspawn is laid in long chains.



There are many species of **migrant birds** that return to the UK during spring. You might see swallows, swifts or house martins. These birds migrate from Africa.

swallow



swift



Did You Know...?

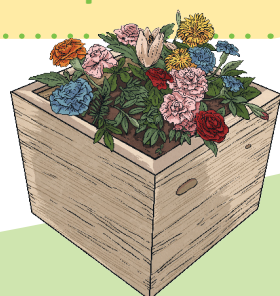
The journey from Africa is over 5000 miles. Swallows can fly up to 200 miles a day but it still takes them more than a month to get here!

Plants

Spring is a time of new growth. **Dormant** plants and trees begin to sprout new buds and shoots. New seedlings begin to grow and the first flowers of the year begin to bloom. Snowdrops are one of the earliest flowers that you might see.

Some Spring Flowers

bluebells crocuses daffodils
primroses tulips



bluebells



tulips



cowslip



snowdrops



crocuses



Did You Know...?

Many spring flowers grow from a bulb.

Insects

There are many more insects around in spring too. During the winter months, they become inactive and their growth and development are paused. They emerge as the temperature increases in spring.

Insects are important as they help flowering plants to make new seeds.



Glossary

dormant: Not active or growing but able to become active or grow in the future.

migrant bird: A bird that moves from one place to another according to the season.

Questions

1. Which of these is a phrase that some people use to help them remember that the clocks are moved forward in spring? Tick one.

- ☐ spring up
- ☐ jump forward
- ☐ spring back
- ☐ spring forward

2. Look at the first paragraph. Which of the following is **not** a fact about spring? Tick one.

- ☐ Spring is one of the four seasons.
- ☐ Spring is when people move their clocks forward one hour.
- ☐ Spring starts in June.
- ☐ Spring begins after winter.

3. Number the sentences from 1-4 to show the order that they appear in the text.

- ☐ Spring is a time of new growth.
- ☐ Hibernation is not just a long sleep.
- ☐ New seedlings begin to grow and the first flowers of the year begin to bloom.
- ☐ Spring is the time of year when animals start to reproduce.

4. Look at the sentence below. Underline the word which means 'to lay eggs'.

Frogs and toads begin to spawn in ponds.

5. Look at the section called **Animals**.

Find and copy one word which means 'to produce young'.

6. Name one species of bird that migrates to the UK during spring.

7. Which part of spring do you think is the most interesting? Explain your answer.

8. Is there something that you would like to know about spring that is not in this text? Write a question.

Answers

1. Which of these is a phrase that some people use to help them remember that the clocks are moved forward in spring? Tick one.
 - ☐ spring up
 - ☐ jump forward
 - ☐ spring back
 - ☒ **spring forward**

2. Look at the first paragraph. Which of the following is **not** a fact about spring? Tick one.
 - ☐ Spring is one of the four seasons.
 - ☐ Spring is when people move their clocks forward one hour.
 - ☒ **Spring starts in June.**
 - ☐ Spring begins after winter.

3. Number the sentences from 1-4 to show the order that they appear in the text.
 - 3** Spring is a time of new growth.
 - 1** Hibernation is not just a long sleep.
 - 4** New seedlings begin to grow and the first flowers of the year begin to bloom.
 - 2** Spring is the time of year when animals start to reproduce.

4. Look at the sentence below. Underline the word which means 'to lay eggs'.

Frogs and toads begin to spawn in ponds.

Award 1 mark for: spawn

5. Look at the section called **Animals**.
Find and copy one word which means 'to produce young'.
reproduce

6. Name one species of bird that migrates to the UK during spring.
Accept any of the following: swallows; swifts; house martins.

7. Which part of spring do you think is the most interesting? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the most interesting part about spring is the number of changes that happen during this season and how different it is from winter. It is a busy time of year with so much new activity in plants and animals.

8. Is there something that you would like to know about spring that is not in this text? Write a question.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Where do the insects go when they are inactive during the winter?

All About Spring

Spring is one of the four seasons. It begins after winter. It starts in March and ends in June. There are more hours of daylight and fewer hours of darkness as the season goes on. The weather in spring gets warmer but can be unpredictable. It is often a mixture of sunny and rainy days.



Spring is the season when people move their clocks forward one hour. This happens during March and the time after the clocks have moved forward is actually called 'British summer time'.

Signs of Spring



Spring is a season of many changes as the natural world begins to awaken after the cold winter months come to an end.

Animals



Many animals emerge from hibernation during spring. Animals, such as hedgehogs, bats, dormice, grass snakes, frogs and toads all hibernate during the winter. Hibernation is not a long sleep. It is a state like a deep sleep when animals slow down their breathing and heart rate to save energy.

A hedgehog's heart rate can slow from approximately 190 beats per minute to just 20 beats per minute.

Animals become more active during spring as more food becomes available for them to eat. This is also the time of year when many animals start to reproduce. Birds begin to build their nests ready for their eggs and frogs and toads begin to spawn in ponds.

Fun Fact

How can you tell the difference between frogspawn and toadspawn? Frogspawn is laid in clumps but toadspawn is laid in long chains.



Spring is an exciting time of the year for many birdwatchers as this is when some **migrant birds** return to the UK. There are many species of birds that migrate to the UK during spring. You might see swallows, swifts or house martins. These birds migrate from Africa. The journey from Africa is over 5000 miles long. Swallows can fly up to 200 miles a day but it still takes them more than a month to get here!



swallow



swift

Plants

Spring is a time of new growth. **Dormant** plants and trees begin to sprout new buds and shoots. New seedlings begin to grow as the soil warms and the first flowers of the year begin to bloom. Snowdrops are one of the earliest flowers that you might see. Other spring flowers include crocuses, daffodils, primroses, bluebells and tulips. Many spring flowers grow from bulbs, including daffodils, bluebells and tulips.

Insects

There is an increase in the number of insects in spring too. During the winter months, they become inactive and their growth and development are paused. This is called diapause. They emerge from this state as the temperature increases in spring.

Insects are important as they play a crucial role in pollination. This is when pollen is moved from one flowering plant to another. Then, a new seed is formed.



bluebells

tulips



cowslip



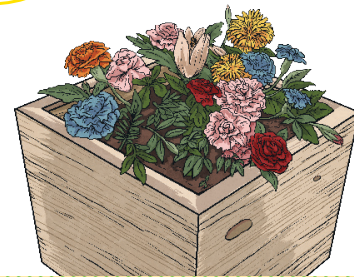
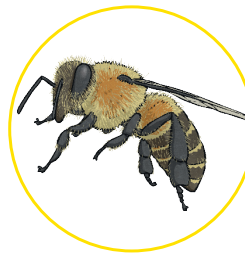
snowdrops



crocuses



daffodils



Glossary

dormant: Not active or growing but able to become active or grow in the future.

migrant bird: A bird that moves from one place to another according to the season.



Questions

1. Look at the first paragraph. Which of the following is **not** a fact about spring? Tick one
- ☐ Spring starts in March.
 - ☐ Spring begins after winter.
 - ☐ Spring ends in June.
 - ☐ Spring begins after autumn.

2. Look at this sentence. Underline the word which means 'when something can't be predicted because it changes a lot'.

The weather in spring gets warmer but can be unpredictable.

3. Look at the section called **Insects**.

Find and copy the word which describes the period of inactivity of an insect during the winter months.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Spring is a time of new growth. _____ plants and trees begin to sprout new buds and shoots. New seedlings begin to grow as the soil warms and the first flowers of the year begin to _____.

5. Which are the earliest flowers that you might see in spring?

6. Which part of spring do you think is the most interesting? Explain your answer.

7. Discuss some of the differences between winter and spring.

8. What do you think would happen if winter temperatures continued until May?

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 - ☐ Spring starts in March.
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 - ☐ Spring ends in June.
 - ☒ **Spring begins after autumn.**
2. Look at this sentence. Underline the word which means 'when something can't be predicted because it changes a lot'.

The weather in spring gets warmer but can be unpredictable.

Award 1 mark for: unpredictable

3. Look at the section called **Insects**.
Find and copy the word which describes the period of inactivity of an insect during the winter months.
diapause
4. Fill in the missing words.
Spring is a time of new growth. **Dormant** plants and trees begin to sprout new buds and shoots. New seedlings begin to grow as the soil warms and the first flowers of the year begin to **bloom**.
5. Which are the earliest flowers that you might see in spring?
Snowdrops are the earliest flowers that you might see in spring.
6. Which part of spring do you think is the most interesting? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the most interesting part about spring is the increased activity with animals emerging from hibernation and insects coming out of a state of diapause.
7. Discuss some of the differences between winter and spring.
Pupils' own responses, such as: During the winter, plants and animals are less active due to the colder temperatures. Some animals hibernate and many plants become dormant. As the weather changes and temperatures rise, animals come out of hibernation and plants begin to grow making spring a busier time of year in nature.
8. What do you think would happen if winter temperatures continued until May?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that winter temperatures until May would have a serious effect on plants and animals as the warmer spring weather is what triggers them to grow and reproduce. If this happened, some animals may not emerge from hibernation and plants would be unable to begin to regrow. This could mean that some plants and animals would not survive.