

The Arrival of Spring

Greek Mythology and the Celebration of Spring and Rebirth

SUMMARY:

Ancient cultures used religion, storytelling and folklore as a means to explain the environment in which they lived, the natural phenomena they witnessed and the passing of time through the days, months, and seasons. In this lesson, we will learn about the Ancient Greek story of Demeter and Persephone and the origin of the seasons. We will revisit the fall lesson on bulbs, observe the daffodils growing in the garden and learn about the story of Narcissus. Students will see the garlic and tulips growing in the garden that they planted in the fall. Lastly, we will plant scallions and onions and taste some early spring greens.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will listen to the Ancient Greek story of Demeter and Persephone and make the connection between the Greek myth and understanding why the seasons change. Students will observe the daffodils (Narcissus) growing in the garden and learn about the story of Narcissus. Students will plant scallion seed and onion sets and revisit their unit on bulbs, observing the growth of the garlic and tulips that they planted in the fall.

MATERIALS:

Demeter and Persephone story
Narcissus story
Scallion seeds and onion sets
Garden trowels

PROCEDURE:

Engage (10 minutes)

Talk about the arrival of spring. What are some signs of spring we can see? Can you remember what a bulb is? What is its function? What happened to the bulbs we planted in the fall? Read the story of Demeter and Persephone.

Break into two groups:

Group One: (10 minutes)

Read the story of Narcissus and visit the daffodils, garlic and tulips. Taste the spring greens: garlic chives and parsley

Group Two: (10 minutes)

Plant the scallions and onion sets

Switch groups