

Seasons Across States

Compare how plants and animals change through the seasons.

SC.4.L.17.1 "Compare the seasonal changes in Florida plants and animals to those in other regions of the country."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each seasonal change in Florida, circle each seasonal change in northern regions, and write the same number beside two details that compare the regions.

Warm and Cold Seasons

- ① Florida has seasons, but they do not look like the seasons in places with long, snowy winters. In much of Florida, summer brings heavy rain, heat, and fast plant growth. Saw palmettos and many other evergreen plants keep green leaves all year. During Florida's cooler, drier winter, growth may slow, but many plants do not lose all their leaves.
- ② Some Florida animals respond to short cold periods. When water becomes chilly, manatees travel to warm springs or warm-water areas. This move helps them stay warm. Farther north, many animals face months of cold weather. White-tailed deer grow thicker winter coats, and some birds fly south for the winter. Their changes often last longer than Florida animals' responses.
- ③ Seasonal differences affect food and shelter. Florida's rainy summer can produce new leaves, flowers, and insects, giving animals more food. In a northern forest, spring also brings new plant growth after winter dormancy. Both regions change with the seasons. However, Florida's mild winter allows many plants and animals to remain active, while northern winter causes stronger, longer changes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How do many Florida plants change from summer to winter?

2 Compare what manatees do during cold periods in Florida with what white-tailed deer do during northern winters.

3 What is one way Florida's rainy summer and a northern forest's spring are alike?

4 Why are winter changes often stronger and longer in northern regions than in Florida?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly two sentences. Choose a Florida plant or animal not named in the passage and a plant or animal from another U.S. region. Explain one seasonal change for each, then compare the changes.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each seasonal change in Florida, circle each seasonal change in northern regions, and write the same number beside two details that compare the regions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do many Florida plants change from summer to winter?	In summer, heavy rain and heat bring fast plant growth. In the cooler, drier winter, growth may slow, but many plants keep their leaves.
2	Compare what manatees do during cold periods in Florida with what white-tailed deer do during northern winters.	Manatees travel to warm springs or warm-water areas. White-tailed deer grow thicker winter coats.
3	What is one way Florida's rainy summer and a northern forest's spring are alike?	Both seasons bring new plant growth, which can provide more food for animals.
4	Why are winter changes often stronger and longer in northern regions than in Florida?	Northern regions can have months of cold weather, while Florida usually has a mild winter and only short cold periods.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Florida, sea turtles nest mainly during warmer months, while sugar maple trees in Maine drop their leaves in fall before winter. The turtles respond to warm beach conditions, but the maple prepares for months of cold weather.

Accept accurate examples that name one Florida organism and one organism from another U.S. region, explain a seasonal change for each, and make a clear comparison. Seasonal changes may involve growth, leaves, movement, nesting, fur, food, or activity.