

*The artwork of the Nebraska State Capitol can be used to teach Nebraska Department of Education Kindergarten Social Studies Standards. Physical Systems SS 0.3.3.b. Identify the four seasons.*

# The Nebraska State Capitol and the Four Seasons

For hundreds of years artists have used the seasons as subjects for pictures. These pictures are beautiful and educational. Artists have used flowers, plants and clothes to show the seasons.

Capitol artist Hildreth Meiere, a mosaicist, created artwork showing the seasons in the Vestibule of the Capitol.



The State Capitol's Vestibule tells about agriculture and nature in Nebraska. At the top of the dome is a large gold tile sunshine and around it are symbols of the seasons. The large vertical pictures in the circle have female figures dressed in different clothes to represent the seasons. This lesson uses the Vestibule dome mosaics to teach the four seasons.





In this picture of SPRING there are flowers that grow in Spring. What kind of spring flowers are growing at the figure's feet? **Tulips**

Spring is a time when the earth warms up after winter, the figure doesn't need a cloak to keep warm but has a scarf. What is the design on the scarf? **flowers and ribbons**



In this picture of SUMMER there are flowers that grow in summer at the figure's feet. What kind of flowers could these be? **Poppies** or **daisies**

Summer wears a cloak over her head for shade. In summer what shines bright and hot? **the sun**





In this picture of AUTUMN the figure carries a basket. Fruits and vegetables are harvested in the Autumn. What kind of vegetables are at the figure's feet? What fruit could be in the basket?

pumpkins, squash, wheat

apples, pears, plums, etc.

The figure has a cloak on her shoulders, but it is open because there are still warm days in autumn. She is wearing a hat to keep warm.



In this picture of WINTER there is snow at the figure's feet and small black trees. Do these trees have leaves? **No** Trees lose their leaves in winter.

Winter has a cloak around her. She looks like she's trying to keep warm. Does she have her hood on? **Yes**



Draw a line from the season's name to the picture of the season.



Winter

Spring

Summer

Autumn



*Additional discussion questions for students. See back page for discussion ideas.*

Compare the artists choice of color in the pictures.

How do the colors the artist used for the figure's clothes represent the seasons?

Notice the hair color of the figures representing summer and winter.

How does the color red represent summer?

How does the color white represent winter?

# Vocabulary

Agriculture - (ag ri kul chur) farming, growing crops, raising farm animals

Cloak - (klok) a loose cloth covering for a person

Dome - (dom) a ceiling that looks like the inside of a hollow ball cut in half

Figure - (fig yur) a drawing of a person or thing

Harvest - (har vist) to gather agricultural crops

Mosaic - (mo za ik) picture made with small pieces of stone, glass, paper or other material

Mosaicist - (mo za a sist) an artist who makes mosaics

Vertical - (vur ti kull) up and down, taller top to bottom than side to side

Vestibule - (ves ta byool) an entrance room of a building



*Additional discussion for students.*

Compare the artists choice of color in the pictures.

How do the colors the artist used for the figure's clothes represent the seasons?

*Spring's bright blue dress and white flowers in the scarf are the colors of the blue sky in spring and the white puffy clouds of spring. The light green in the scarf and at the figures feet is the color of the newly emerging grass and leaves of the trees.*

*The darker green of summer's cloak is the deep green color of grass in summer. The tans and browns of her dress are the colors of soil that dries in the hot sun. The black on the inside of the cloak is the color of the shadows cast by the bright sun of summer.*

*Autumn's pink dress and red cloak are the colors of the leaves in autumn.*

*Winter's gray and light blue cloak represent the colors of the sky in winter. The sky turns gray when it snows and when it's cloudy after a snow. When the sun shines in winter the sky is a lighter blue because the sun is low in the sky. Sometimes the land and plants in winter looks gray when the grass and the plants stop growing and the leaves die. Once the trees lose their leaves, the bark of trees can look gray against the white of the snow.*

Notice the hair color of the figures representing summer and winter.

How does the color red represent summer?

*Red is a color representing the heat of summer and the sun. People get sunburned red in summer.*

How does the color white represent winter?

*White is the color of snow and ice.*