

Language

Core language

<i>l'hiver</i> (m)	winter
<i>le printemps</i>	spring
<i>l'été</i> (m)	summer
<i>l'automne</i> (m)	autumn
<i>au printemps</i>	in spring
<i>en été/automne/hiver</i>	in summer/autumn/winter

<i>Il faisait beau, etc</i>	It was good weather, etc
<i>clair</i>	light
<i>sombre</i>	dark
<i>heureux</i>	happy
<i>triste</i>	sad

Additional language for this unit

<i>J'ai visité</i>	I visited
<i>coloré</i>	colourful
<i>fade</i>	dull
<i>agité</i>	excited
<i>calme</i>	calm
<i>rigolo</i>	funny
<i>sérieux</i>	serious
<i>Viens/Reste chez moi</i>	Come to / Stay (singular) with me
<i>Les couleurs sont ...</i>	The colours are ...
<i>Tape les mains / les pieds</i>	Clap (singular) your hands / tap (singular) your feet
<i>la prairie</i>	the meadow
<i>l'étang</i> (m)	the pond
<i>un écureuil</i>	a squirrel
<i>une grenouille</i>	a frog
<i>une hirondelle</i>	a swallow

Additional language for teachers

<i>l'été dernier/prochain</i>	last/next summer
<i>la semaine dernière/prochaine</i>	last/next week
<i>l'année dernière/prochaine</i>	last/next year
<i>hier</i>	yesterday
<i>aujourd'hui</i>	today
<i>demain</i>	tomorrow
<i>C'est quelle saison?</i>	Which season is it?
<i>tout est ...</i>	everything is ...
<i>Associez/Associe une couleur à une saison</i>	Match (plural/singular) a colour to a season
<i>Décrivez/Décris une saison</i>	Describe (plural/singular) a season
<i>Essayez le tableau</i>	Wipe the board
<i>C'est de quelle couleur?</i>	What colour is it?

Unit 17 Les quatre saisons (The four seasons)

About the unit

In this unit children learn to describe seasons using a poem, *Le retour du printemps*, and the music from Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons'. The poem is provided at the end of the unit. They also learn to talk about what the weather was like. Children work on an end-of-unit performance to consolidate and celebrate their learning.

Where the unit fits in

This unit draws upon familiar vocabulary and structures. Children revise the months (see Unit 3), the weather (see Units 7 and 12), animals and their habitats (see Units 11 and 16) and the alphabet (see Unit 15). The imperfect tense is introduced here and covered in more detail in Unit 22.

Prior learning

It is helpful if children already know:

- some weather phrases
- how to say the date of their birthday
- the alphabet
- some animals and their habitats
- some colours
- *chaud/froid*.

New language

- Making simple statements (about seasons)
- Describing the weather (with reference to the present and the past)
- Using adjectives as antonyms
- Prepositions *en, au* (with seasons)
- Imperfect tense, eg *Il faisait beau/chaud*
- Adjectives: agreement and position (revision)
- Phonic focus: using knowledge of phoneme-grapheme correspondence to aid writing

Resources

- Song about the months
- Picture flashcards and/or props for the weather and seasons
- Text cards for the seasons and weather phrases
- Word cards for months, days of the week and *le*
- Hoops
- Map of France or another francophone country
- Colour-coded text and picture cards for weather phrases (see Section 2)
- Visuals to illustrate the poem *Le retour du printemps* (the poem is available at the end of this unit)
- Multi-link cubes
- Illustrated word bank of animal habitats
- Recording of Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons'
- Flashcards or images to introduce antonyms
- Props for a performance

Links with other subjects

Drama: perform a scripted scene, making use of dramatic conventions

Geography: identify and describe what places are like

Music: explore and express ideas and feelings using movement, dance and expressive and musical language

Expectations

At the end of this unit

most children will:

understand how a simple sentence is written; build sentences in the imperfect tense from a model; listen to a poem and select familiar key words and phrases; take part in a brief prepared task

some children will not have made so much progress and will:

understand and respond to simple questions with prompts and single-word answers; need to refer to visual clues when listening to a poem or story

some children will have progressed further and will:

show understanding of a short text containing familiar and unfamiliar language; take the initiative in preparing an oral task and use a bilingual dictionary to research new language



QCA wishes to make its publications widely accessible.
Please contact us if you have any specific accessibility requirements.

Learning objectives	Possible teaching activities	Learning outcomes	Points to note
<p>Children should learn</p>		<p>Children</p>	
<p>Section 1. Months and seasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to prepare and practise a simple conversation, using familiar vocabulary and structures in new contexts (O5.1) to listen attentively and understand more complex phrases and sentences (O5.3) to appreciate that different languages use different writing conventions (KAL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play a recording of a song about the months or set these to a simple tune. Each child stands up when they hear their birthday month. Display picture cards or text cards for each season. Say each season – <i>l’hiver</i> (winter), <i>le printemps</i> (spring), <i>l’été</i> (summer) and <i>l’automne</i> (autumn) – and ask children to listen and repeat. Mime a season and ask <i>C’est quelle saison?</i> (Which season is it?) Ask for volunteers to repeat this activity. This can then be done in pairs. Before showing the written words for the seasons, challenge children to write the seasons from the sounds they hear. Display the written words for the seasons and highlight sound/spelling links. Show children some unfamiliar words that incorporate the same graphemes. Allow them a short time to whisper the words to their partner before inviting volunteers to have a go at reading them. Allow children to have another attempt at writing the words, using the ‘Look, say, cover, write, check’ method. Make four statements about months of the year and which season they are in, eg <i>Avril est au printemps, août est en été, octobre est en automne et janvier est en hiver</i>. Ask children what they have noticed about how you say ‘in winter’, ‘in summer’, etc. Show on the board how <i>le</i> or <i>l’</i> become <i>en/au</i>. NB: the only season that uses <i>au</i> is <i>le printemps</i>. Ask children to listen to the phrases and repeat them. Tell children which season your birthday month is in, eg <i>Mon anniversaire est en automne</i> (My birthday is in the autumn). Ask individual children to identify the season of their birthday month, eg <i>C’est quand, ton anniversaire? Mon anniversaire est en hiver</i>. Accept <i>hiver</i> from some children. Revise numbers 1–31 by playing a variety of counting games. Revise how to say the date by playing a game (see Unit 3, Section 2). Display a range of dates on the board and read one out. Children have to identify the date you have selected. Working in pairs or small groups, children revise saying their birthdays. Perform a Mexican wave, where each child in turn says their birthday. This can be timed to add a further challenge. Discuss with children how French and English dates differ, eg use of capital letters and ordinal numbers (see Unit 13, Section 4). Display picture cards for each season. Ask children to identify the picture card for the season of their birthday month. Set up a class ‘speed challenge’, where children order the months of the year against the clock. This can be done in pairs with word cards or as a whole-class activity using the interactive whiteboard. If using the whiteboard, divide the screen into two, with a set of word cards in each half. Two teams compete using an electronic stop clock, if one is available with the whiteboard software. Extension: Ask children to choose a different way of ordering the months (eg alphabetically). Children share their methods. In small groups, children divide a hoop into quarters to represent the seasons. They put word cards for each month into the correct season. Some children may benefit from having a chart with the months and seasons in English. Take feedback from the class. Children take it in turns to select a word card from the hoop and make a sentence, matching the month to the correct season, eg <i>Avril est au printemps</i>. Ask children which words/months they find easy/difficult to remember and why. Play <i>Le Pendu</i> (Hangman) to revise the months and the seasons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pick out key words when listening to a song remember how to write the date create sentences linking months to seasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pronunciation point: In the phrase <i>Mon anniversaire est en hiver</i>, the <i>t</i> at the end of <i>est</i> is pronounced to create a liaison between <i>est</i> and <i>en</i>. Ensure that children work in mixed-ability groups when working on collaborative activities. For Hangman, if using an interactive whiteboard, use a template as suggested in Unit 8. Follow-up: Throughout the week, children listen to and join in with songs about days and months. Follow-up: Throughout the week, write and read aloud the date every day. Follow-up: As a PE warm-up, display a picture or text card for each season around the hall. Call out a month and children run to the correct season. Follow-up: Discuss features of seasonal changes in English.

Learning objectives

Possible teaching activities

Learning outcomes

Points to note

Children should learn

Children

Section 2. Weather and seasons

- to listen attentively and understand more complex phrases and sentences (O5.3)
 - to make simple sentences and short texts (L5.2)
 - to write words, phrases and short sentences, using a reference (L5.3)
 - to look and listen for visual and aural clues (LLS)
- Revise weather phrases in the present tense, eg *Il fait beau, Il fait chaud, Il pleut, Il neige*, using picture flashcards and props (see Unit 7, Section 3 and Unit 12, Section 1 for ideas).
 - Show children a map of France (or another francophone country) and display a text similar to the following: *L'hiver dernier, j'ai visité Paris. Il faisait très froid.* (Last winter, I visited Paris. It was very cold.) Read the sentence aloud and invite children to talk to a partner for a minute and discuss what they think it means. Are there any clues in the sentence to help them work out if the sentence is in the past, present or future? See 'Points to note' for further explanation. Take feedback and explain that you were talking about something that has already happened – something in the past. Highlight *dernier, J'ai visité* and *Il faisait* in red.
 - Teach the weather phrases which use *faire* in the imperfect tense, eg *Il faisait beau / mauvais / chaud / froid / du vent / du soleil.* (It was good/bad/hot/cold/windy/sunny weather.) Practise the phrases using mimes, pictures or flashcards.
 - Play Pelmanism as a whole class, using sets of picture cards and text cards showing the weather phrases above. There should be two sets of picture cards, one set on a red background to indicate the past, and one set on a blue background to indicate the present. There should also be two sets of word cards, one set displaying phrases in the present tense, eg *il fait beau*, and one set displaying phrases in the imperfect tense, eg *Il faisait beau*. The aim is to find the corresponding picture and text cards. For example, a picture of an icicle on a red background would go with the text card *Il faisait froid*, while a picture of an icicle on a blue background would go with the text card *Il fait froid*. This game could then be played in pairs, if appropriate.
 - Re-read the text: *L'hiver dernier, j'ai visité Paris. Il faisait très froid.* Underline the words *L'hiver, Paris* and *froid*. Invite children to suggest alternatives for these words and demonstrate on the board how these can be substituted to create a new meaning. Read the new sentences aloud. Children then work in pairs and, using text cards or mini-whiteboards, they build new sentences, substituting alternatives for the underlined words. If working on mini-whiteboards, some children may need a word bank for support. Select several pairs of children to read out their sentences.
 - Extension: Children use a simple connective to extend their sentences, eg *et* (and), *où* (where), *mais* (but).
 - Extension: Children write the names of the seasons from memory. Help them by saying the words very slowly, so they can hear individual phonemes.
 - Extension: Play *Essuyez le tableau* (Wipe the Board) (see 'Points to note').

- pick out detail from spoken sentences
- build sentences about an event in the past using text cards

- Follow-up: You may like to create a series of colour-coded *Passé/Présent/Futur* posters for display, which help children to spot 'clues' as to the tense in which a sentence is written. These could then be referred to whenever children are focusing on tense. The colour codes could also be used to annotate or highlight text. For example, the *Passé* poster could be in red and could include words and phrases such as: *hier* (yesterday), *la semaine dernière* (last week), *l'année dernière* (last year) and *l'été dernier* (last summer). The *Présent* poster could be in blue and could include words and phrases such as *aujourd'hui* (today) and *maintenant* (now). The *Futur* poster could be in green and could include expressions such as: *demain* (tomorrow), *la semaine prochaine* (next week), *l'année prochaine* (next year) and *l'été prochain* (next summer).
- Follow-up: Talking about the weather using *Il fait* and *Il faisait* could become part of your everyday classroom routine. You could display a weather chart with the headings *Aujourd'hui* (today) and *Hier* (yesterday), which could be changed every day.
- Grammar point: The phrase *Il faisait beau* (It was nice weather) is in the imperfect tense. In French, as in English, the imperfect tense is used to describe an action that continued over a sustained period of time. It can also correspond to 'used to (do)' in English.
- Pronunciation point: Draw attention to the silent *h* of *hiver*. Can children remember any other words with a silent *h*? (Remind them of the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' in Unit 6).
- Pronunciation point: When saying *en hiver*, the pronunciation of the *n* is quite emphatic (as in *en été* and *en automne*).
- To play *Essuyez le tableau* for practising the weather (the game could be adapted for other themes): write six numbered weather phrases on the board, three in the imperfect tense (*il faisait*) and three in the present tense (*il fait*). Read each phrase aloud and ask children to stand up if the sentence is in the past and to sit down (or remain seated) if it is in the present. Give children time to read and re-read the phrase. Roll a die and cover the phrase that matches the number on the die. A volunteer comes to the front to write the weather phrase on the board from memory. Reveal the covered phrase and check. If the phrase written from memory is correct, rub out the original phrase. The aim of the game is to rub out the six original phrases. Children can go on to play this in pairs, using mini-whiteboards. Those needing extra support could select the correct phrase from a selection of text cards, rather than writing it.
- *Essuyez le tableau* also works well on an interactive whiteboard. Use an electronic die, if available, and shapes to hide the phrases. Some boards have handwriting recognition software that converts handwriting to text: this encourages children to form letters correctly in order to see whether the board 'recognises' their French.
- Follow-up: Throughout the week, mime some sentences for the class to guess.
- Follow-up: Create an interactive display, where children build sentences using text cards.
- Follow-up: Collect weather data from the internet, newspapers or television. Investigate weather around the world.
- Links with literacy work: The first extension activity links to composing sentences using connectives (from year 3 onwards).

Learning objectives

Possible teaching activities

Learning outcomes

Points to note

Children should learn

Children

Section 3. Joining in a poem

- to listen attentively and understand more complex phrases and sentences (O5.3)
 - to re-read frequently a variety of short texts (L5.1)
 - to write words, phrases and short sentences, using a reference (L5.3)
 - to recognise patterns in simple sentences (KAL)
 - to manipulate language by changing an element in a sentence (KAL)
 - to use actions and rhymes to aid memorisation (LLS)
- Revise seasons and months by repeating a game from Section 1 or 2. Ask children when their birthday is, eliciting the month rather than the season, eg *Mon anniversaire est en janvier*.
 - Tell children that they are going to listen to a poem called *Le retour du printemps* (The return of spring) with a chorus that includes the lines: *Tape les mains ... tape les pieds* (Clap your hands ... tap your feet). Read out the chorus (see 'Points to note'), modelling when to clap hands and tap feet. Read it out again and encourage children to join in the actions. Ask children if they can identify the season mentioned in the chorus. Display the chorus and children read it aloud together.
 - Display the whole poem *Le retour du printemps* with some visuals, and read each verse in turn. Children join in the chorus. Ask children what they think the poem is about and which are the elements that change in each verse.
 - Display one verse of the poem and pick out some specific words that have something in common with each other, eg *dans, une, viens, le* (these are all the first word in each line) or *prairie, matin, printemps, chemin* (these are all two-syllable words) or *matin, printemps, chemin* (these all contain the sound *in*). Ask children to discuss with talk partners why they think these words have been chosen.
 - Display six consecutive lines from the poem on the board, with each one colour-coded. Give children a selection of multi-link cubes in corresponding colours. Read out the poem. When children hear one of the lines on the board, they take the cube in the corresponding colour. They then look at their cubes and read aloud the lines in that order.
 - Extension: Children learn the chorus off by heart. Some children can also learn the verses.
 - Highlight the animal and the habitat in each verse. Ask children what strategies they could use to work out unfamiliar language in the poem.
 - Ask for suggestions of alternative animals and list these. Display an illustrated word bank of alternative habitats and model the pronunciation for each one. Individually or in pairs, children choose a different animal and habitat to complete their own written verse for a class poem. Provide differentiated writing frames, as appropriate. Some children may prefer to use text cards to produce their own verse, instead of writing. Children could use dictionaries to find additional vocabulary.

- identify key features of a spoken and written text
- choose words, phrases and sentences for a class poem

- The text of the poem *Le retour du printemps* is provided at the end of the unit. It may be helpful to have it recorded by a confident or native speaker and linked to a presentation of the text.
- Follow-up: Throughout the week, practise reading the poem aloud.
- In writing a class poem (final activity), you could choose a different season and different locations for the animals. For example, *Sur la plage, ce matin, une mouette m'a dit ...* (On the beach this morning, a seagull said to me ...)
- Link with literacy work: The third activity links to preparing poems for performance using expression, tone and volume (year 3).
- If using the electronic whiteboard for the last activity, open a blank screen and record the children's comments on it, marking the name of each contributor. This is a useful strategy for involving children in a creative dialogue and reminding them of their contribution to the lesson in a plenary or subsequent lesson.
- For the final activity, if using the interactive whiteboard to model the language, differentiated versions of writing frames can be distinguished by changing the background colour of screens.

Section 4. Seasonal colours

- to understand and express simple opinions (O5.2)
 - to integrate new language into previously learnt language (LLS)
 - to use actions and rhymes to aid memorisation (LLS)
- Read out a selection of known nouns and adjectives. When children hear an adjective, they clap their hands; when they hear a noun, they tap their feet.
 - Revise the seasons by practising the mimes (see Section 1). Mime a season and ask children *C'est quelle saison?* (Which season is it?)
 - Play extracts from Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons' and ask children to identify which season matches each extract. Children listen again and in pairs write down as many colours as they can which they associate with each season.
 - Ask children to suggest contrasting colours for summer and winter. Write their suggestions on the board under the correct heading.
 - Introduce some additional antonyms. Display picture flashcards or images in random order to illustrate *chaud/froid* (warm/cold), *clair/sombre* (light/dark), *heureux/triste* (happy/sad), *coloré/fade* (colourful/dull), *agité/calme* (excited/calm), *rigolo/sérieux* (funny/serious). Ask volunteers to come to the board and match them up. Use the matched pairs to introduce pronunciation of the new words and encourage children to think of a mime to aid memorisation.
 - Children work in pairs to decide on adjectives to describe a season. Add these suggestions under the headings of summer and winter that are already on the board.
 - Play Ping-Pong with the antonyms. 'Bat' *chaud* to the children and the children 'bat' back *froid*, etc.

- understand expressions of like and dislike
- select adjectives to describe seasons

- Follow-up: Throughout the week, play the Ping-Pong game with opposites and practise descriptions of seasons.
- Follow-up: Children illustrate descriptions of the seasons for display. Encourage them to refer to hot and cold colours from the colour wheel.
- Follow-up: Children use software packages to create calligrams for antonyms.

Learning objectives

Possible teaching activities

Learning outcomes

Points to note

Children should learn

Children

Section 5. Conscience Alley

- to prepare and practise a simple conversation, reusing familiar vocabulary and structures in new contexts (O5.1)
 - to understand and express simple opinions (O5.2)
 - to prepare a short presentation on a familiar topic (O5.4)
 - to develop accuracy in pronunciation and intonation (KAL)
- Display antonyms from the previous section in random order on the board. Write a number next to each one and ask children in pairs to write down the numbers of the matching words. They feed back their answers.
 - Play a word association game, where you call out a colour and children reply with a season. This could be played in pairs or groups. Revise seasons and extend descriptions, eg *Il fait chaud et c'est une saison heureuse, colorée et claire ... Les couleurs sont le vert, le jaune et le rouge ... C'est quelle saison?* (It is hot and the season is happy, colourful and light ... The colours are green, yellow and red ... What season is it?) Children listen and respond. Some may benefit from having pictures of summer and winter scenes on their tables.
 - Explain to children that they are going to prepare a performance where they will personify the four seasons and persuade others that their season is the best. Revise some or all of the poem from Section 3 and model selected lines that children will need for this activity, eg *Viens, viens, viens, l'hiver est sur le chemin.* You could also add *Viens/ reste chez moi.* Children then add their own adjectives to describe their season. In groups of four, children take on a different season and add their own adjectives. Children feed back suggestions for seasons. Model how these could be used with the structure *tout est ... clair/froid/chaud* (everything is ... light/cold/hot).
 - Extension: Qualifiers such as *trop* (too) and *très* (very) could be used to add emphasis, eg *trop froid, très chaud.*
 - Children work with a talk partner (who has the same season) to develop and practise their lines. Encourage accurate pronunciation, intonation and rhythm. Highlight the importance of gestures, body language and facial expression.
 - Children take part in a Conscience Alley. Those who are representing summer and those who are representing winter form two lines facing each other. The remaining children (who will represent autumn and spring) form a line and walk down the middle of the 'alley'. As the autumn and spring children walk down the alley, the children advocating winter and summer whisper their prepared lines, to persuade them of the merits of their season. Allow some less confident children to whisper one word only. At the end of the alley, children must decide which season they prefer. Repeat the activity, with the autumn and spring advocates persuading the summer and winter teams.

- ask and answer questions
- memorise a rhyme and repeat this with correct pronunciation and intonation
- use tone of voice to help convey meaning

- Follow-up: Children write some sentences to describe a season. They present these to the class.
- Links with literacy work: The last two activities link to drama work where children work in roles to explore complex issues (year 5). The final activity links to year 5 work on presenting a spoken argument, sequencing points logically, defending views with evidence and making use of persuasive language.

Section 6. Preparing a performance

- to prepare and practise a simple conversation reusing familiar vocabulary and structures in new contexts (O5.1)
 - to prepare a short presentation on a familiar topic (O5.4)
 - to plan and prepare – analyse what needs to be done to carry out a task (LLS)
- Prepare a class performance based on the previous section. You may want to incorporate the music from Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons' and include some movement.
 - Extension: Give children some additional expressions to include, eg *J'adore le printemps, c'est si clair* (I love spring, it's so light).
 - Children work with their season talk partner from the previous section to create a script that they will use for their performance. Display a writing frame on the board for support. You may like to choose two confident children as actors who will 'walk' through the year and decide which season they prefer.

- memorise a rhyme and repeat this with correct pronunciation and intonation
- use tone of voice and gesture to convey meaning

- Follow-up: Throughout the week, children practise their performance.

End-of-unit activity

- to apply the knowledge, skills and understanding in this unit
- Children perform their play to an audience. Film or photograph this with a digital camera. Children involved in the performance could store the film on their personal space on a learning platform, to celebrate their achievement and to record it as evidence of progress.

- memorise a rhyme and repeat this with correct pronunciation and intonation
- use tone of voice and gesture to convey meaning

- Follow-up: Children view the film or photographs of their performance. They discuss and evaluate it, using the 'two stars and a wish' formula to highlight achievements and suggest improvements for the future.
- Follow-up: Using photographs and scripts from their performance, children create a class multimedia presentation.
- Link with literacy work: This activity links to drama work on developing scripts based on improvisation (year 4) and on commenting constructively on performances.

Le retour du printemps

Dans la prairie, ce matin
Une hirondelle m'a dit: « Viens,
Viens, viens, viens,
Le printemps est sur le chemin. »

Refrain

Tape les mains
C'est l'printemps qui revient.
Tape les pieds
C'est l'printemps qui renaît.

Dans la forêt, ce matin
Un écureuil m'a dit: « Viens,
Viens, viens, viens,
Le printemps est sur le chemin. »

(Refrain)

Près de l'étang, ce matin
Une grenouille m'a dit: « Viens,
Viens, viens, viens,
Le printemps est sur le chemin. »

(Refrain)

The return of spring

In the meadow this morning
A swallow said to me: 'Come,
Come, come, come,
Spring is on its way.'

Chorus

Clap your hands
Spring is coming again.
Tap your feet
Spring is reborn.

In the forest this morning
A squirrel said to me: 'Come,
Come, come, come,
Spring is on its way.'

(Chorus)

By the pond this morning
A frog said to me: 'Come,
Come, come, come,
Spring is on its way.'

(Chorus)