

Preparatory

Natural History

Young students will gently discover the natural world through listening to an array of seasonal picture books, keeping a calendar and exploring nature. Choose books from the Read Around the Seasons book list as they fit your family's needs and interests and relate them back to your daily calendar work. Read a few suggestions for each season over the course of a full calendar year. Feel free to read favorites more than once. Some books include: *Good-Night, Owl!* by Pat Hutchins, *Snow* by Cynthia Rylant, *Winter Dance* by Marion Dane Bauer, *Spring Walk* by Virginia Brimhall Snow, *And Then It's Spring* by Julie Fogliano and *Summer Days and Nights* by Wong Herbert Yee.

Consider adding *Farm Life* –or one of the other guided studies for the Early School level- to the Preparatory level if more challenge or structure for natural history is needed. These are optional for this level, but are not in Year One. The four guides include: *Farm Life*, *Weather*, *Woods, Fields & Forests* and *Seed Dispersion*. They can be purchased individually, but are already included in *Foundations Lesson Guide –Year One*. *Weather: A Guided Study* is highly recommended for Year One students.

History

Preparatory students will already be learning about the passage of time through calendar work and a focus on seasons in Natural History. To coordinate with this, children will be learning about US holidays as well as some important names in history. Choose several picture books from the First US Holidays and History book list, which are loosely arranged to follow a traditional school calendar year. Some books include: *Thanksgiving Is* by Gail Gibbons, *My Little Golden Book About Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Bonnie Bader, *President's Day* by Anne Rockwell and *The 4th of July Story* by Alice Dalgliesh.

Geography

Preparatory students will first learn about the people within their own neighborhoods and cities by listening to picture books such as *The Post Office Book* by Gail Gibbon and *Spark the Firefighter* by Stephen Krensky from the Communities book list in Term One. In Terms Two and Three, students will expand their introduction of people to the variety found around the world. The stories will be selected from the Read Around

the World book list. Some books include: *Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story* by Tomie dePaola, *Waiting for the Biblioburro* by Monica Brown, *Galimoto* by Karen Lynn Williams, *The Story about Ping* by Marjorie Flack, *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf and *Koala Lou* by Mem Fox.

Literature & Poetry

Students will listen to poetry as it is read aloud from a lovely selection of seasonal focused books: *A Child's Calendar: Poems by John Updike* (illust. by Hyman), *Long Night Moon* by Cynthia Rylant, *The Year Comes Round: Haiku Through the Seasons* by Sid Farrar and *Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors* by Joyce Sidman. Literature will focus on fables, classic children's stories, *Tales of Peter Rabbit and Friends* and others.

The Arts

Choose artists, composers and music for the family and allow your preparatory students to join in with this study as interested.