



# **DIE JAHRESZEITEN – THE SEASONS**

## **TEACHERS' NOTES**

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### **Introduction**

This presentation has been designed to familiarize pupils with little or no German with the four seasons in Germany. They will already know the seasons from the way they appear in Scotland, so the teacher might want to point out the differences and special features of the German seasons.

The following slides will guide you through the year and show some of the most important features of the seasons in Germany.

<b><u>Slide</u></b>	<b><u>Explanation</u></b>
<b>1</b>	introductory slide: The teacher can introduce the topic to the pupils by asking them what they already know about the four seasons. They can describe the four pictures and match them with the four seasons which they will already know from their own experience.
<b>2</b>	Translation: The year has 365 days and 12 months.
<b>3</b>	This slide contains the German expressions for the 12 months. 5 of them have been left out (March, May, September, October, December) and the pupils are supposed to put them in the right place.
<b>4</b>	Spring
<b>5</b>	Spring

**6** Translation:  
We celebrate Easter in springtime.

Easter traditions in Germany are closely connected to springtime symbols such as flowers or lambs. You can find out more about German Easter traditions in the presentation “Ostern in Deutschland”.

**7** Translation:  
The snow is melting.  
It is getting warmer again.

**8** Summer

**9** Translation:  
Children love the summer...  
No school!  
Eating ice cream!

**10** ...and going for a swim!

School children in Germany leave school for 6 weeks during the summer months. Each federal state starts its summer holidays on a different day to avoid overcrowded motorways and holiday resorts, campsites etc.

Swimming in open air pools or lakes is one of most children's favourite pastime. You can buy all different kinds of ice cream everywhere in town.

**11** Translation:  
There are different kinds of fruits in the garden: cherries, currants, raspberries and strawberries.

Many people use these seasonal summer fruits to make delicious pastry, juice or jam.

**12** Autumn

**13** Translation:  
It is getting colder again... It is raining. The wind is blowing.

**14** Translation:  
Autumn leaves are falling...

Although the weather is getting colder again in autumn, many people enjoy the way the trees change their colour. It is popular among children to collect different autumn fruits (chestnuts, beechnuts,...) and make little figurines from them.

- 15** Translation:  
Winter will soon be here.  
We are flying south!  
I have to look for food!

Migrant birds are gathering to fly south.

Animals are collecting food to survive the winter when snow is covering the forest soil. Some animals, like the hedgehog, prepare for hibernation.

- 16** Winter

- 17** Translation:  
Snow is falling.  
We are building a snowman!

Some regions in Germany get snow quite regularly every year, e.g. the south and mountainous regions. It rarely ever snows in the north and coastal regions.

- 18** Translation:  
We celebrate Christmas and New Year's Eve.

- 19** Translation:  
We go skiing, snowboarding or for a sleigh ride.

Winter sports are very popular in many parts of Germany. A lot of people use the winter holidays to indulge in skiing or snowboarding, at home or abroad.

- 20** Quiz: what happens when?

The pupils are supposed to match the phrases with the respective season:

*Schneemann bauen – Winter*  
*baden gehen – Sommer*  
*Ski fahren – Winter*  
*Eis essen – Sommer*  
*der Schnee schmilzt – Frühling*  
*Die Blätter fallen - Herbst*