

Random Facts About Fall

- Pumpkins were once believed to remove freckles! During Halloween and Autumn Festivals they are used for Jack o' lanterns, decorating, and baking. The original Jack o' Lantern originated in Ireland.
- 90% of pumpkins grown in the US come from the state of Illinois.
- Many animals start to prepare for winter (known as hibernation). Bears for example will begin to go into hyperphasia and fall transition. Black bears can eat up to 20,000 calories a day. The further into fall transition they go, bears will then become very tired and sleepy which prepares them for hibernation.
- When leaves change color, they become their true color. In the summer, the chlorophyll takes over and is what causes them to turn green. Xanthophyll causes them to look yellow and carotene causes them to look orange.
- People who live closest to the equator, never experience the season of fall!
- Fall is the peak season for migratory birds to begin flying to other places with a warmer climate. One bird, the Arctic Tern flies nearly 11,000 miles one way during migration!
- Because there is a lack of sunshine, people are less likely to get sufficient amounts of vitamin D.
- In British culture, catching leaves in the fall is supposed to bring you good luck.
- The autumn equinox happens around September 23rd of the month, when the days begin getting shorter.
- Autumn has a name for its full moon ~ the Harvest Moon. Before there was modern technology and electricity, farmers would depend on the Harvest Moon to help harvest their crops.
- According to NASA geomagnetic storms are more frequent in the fall. Geomagnetic storms are a temporary change in the earth's magnetic fields. The weather changes, daylight changes and even the Aurora Borealis becomes more active as the season changes into fall.
- Tamarack or Western Larch is the only coniferous tree whose needles change color and begin to fall.
- Fall ends on the Winter Solstice