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Seasons in the City



 **LOTHIAN**
Children's Books



Seasons divide the year and bring about changes in the world around us.

Different seasons bring warm or cool weather; snow or extreme heat; wet, windy weeks or dry, dusty days; and even big weather events like super storms and twisting tornadoes. Some seasons have stretched-out days with lots of sunlight, while others have very little light and much shorter days.

The Earth's northern and southern hemispheres experience opposite seasons. When a country in Europe is celebrating the holiday season with snow angels and hot chocolate, a country like Australia is in the middle of summer, where festivities might be at the beach with plenty of sunscreen handy!

Some cultures divide their year into six or more seasons that mark subtle changes in weather, but in certain tropical regions there are no more than two seasons: wet and dry. In most cities around the world the year is divided into four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Throughout history people have welcomed new seasons with important rituals. Plenty of these traditions continue today, as changes in weather bring different occasions to celebrate and activities to enjoy all year round in many of the world's cities.

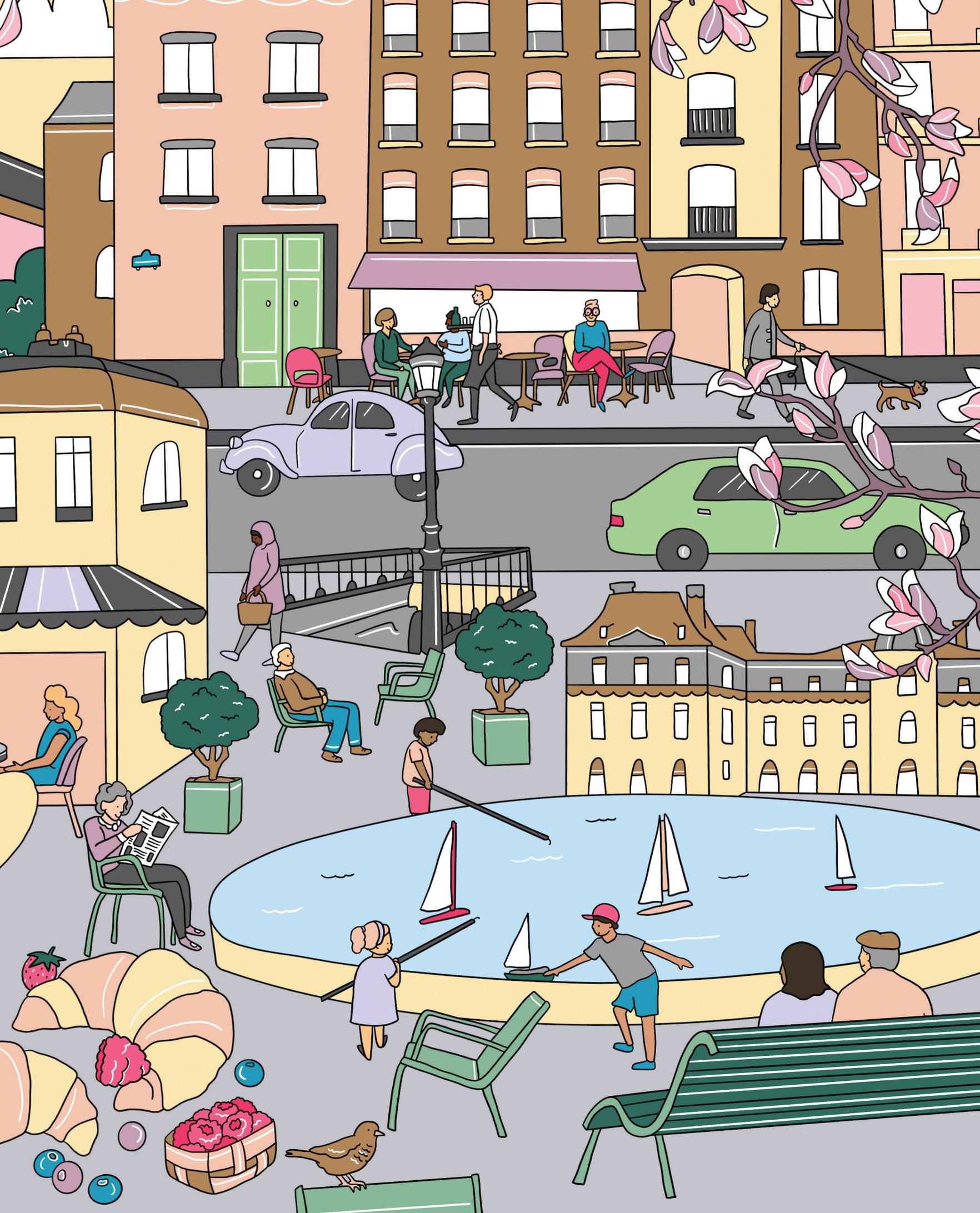
What do the seasons look like in your city?

Paris

In Paris, the capital of France, spring is one of the prettiest times of year. Pink magnolias blossom and bright new shoots grow on the trees lining the grand boulevards. The city's parks flourish in the warmer weather. At the Luxembourg Gardens, you can read in the sun on one of the green park chairs or sail toy boats on the pond.

Following the grey winter months, Parisians love spending spring outdoors. Bustling cafes spill their tables onto the footpaths, with customers facing the street for people watching. The Eiffel Tower soars above the city, and the green lawn that sprawls out from all sides is a prime place for a picnic lunch – the French are said to have invented the *pique-nique*, after all! Baguettes and French pastries make perfect picnic food.





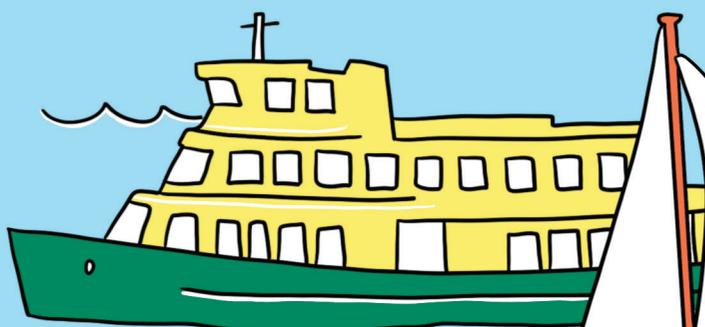
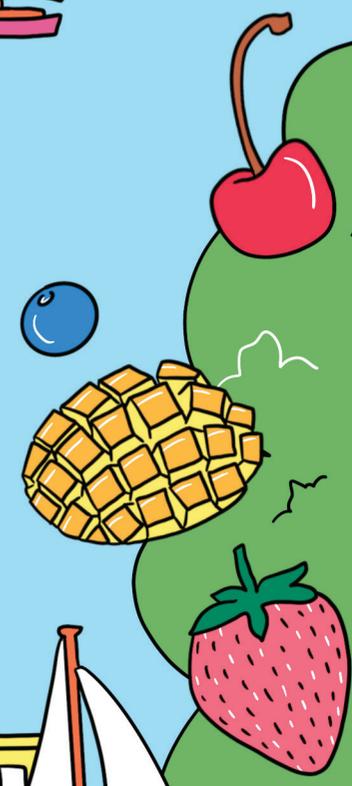
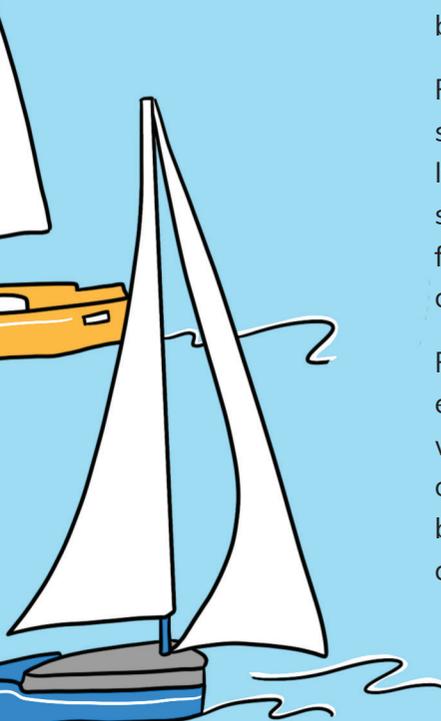


Sydney

Summertime in Sydney, Australia, is sunny and sparkling. The harbour city is surrounded by water, so lots of people spend their weekends and holidays taking a dip in the ocean baths or splashing about at the beaches.

Ferries and boats bob on the harbour year round, but in summertime being on the water is even more popular. It's the best place to see the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race start each year, and to watch the famous New Year's Eve fireworks. People come from all over the world to see the display shooting and shimmering in the sky above the water.

Fresh fruits like mangoes, cherries and strawberries are everywhere during Sydney's summer, and often make their way into classic Australian desserts like pavlova. With lots of people taking time off, it's common to host backyard barbecues and outdoor picnics to eat treats like these and enjoy the warm weather.



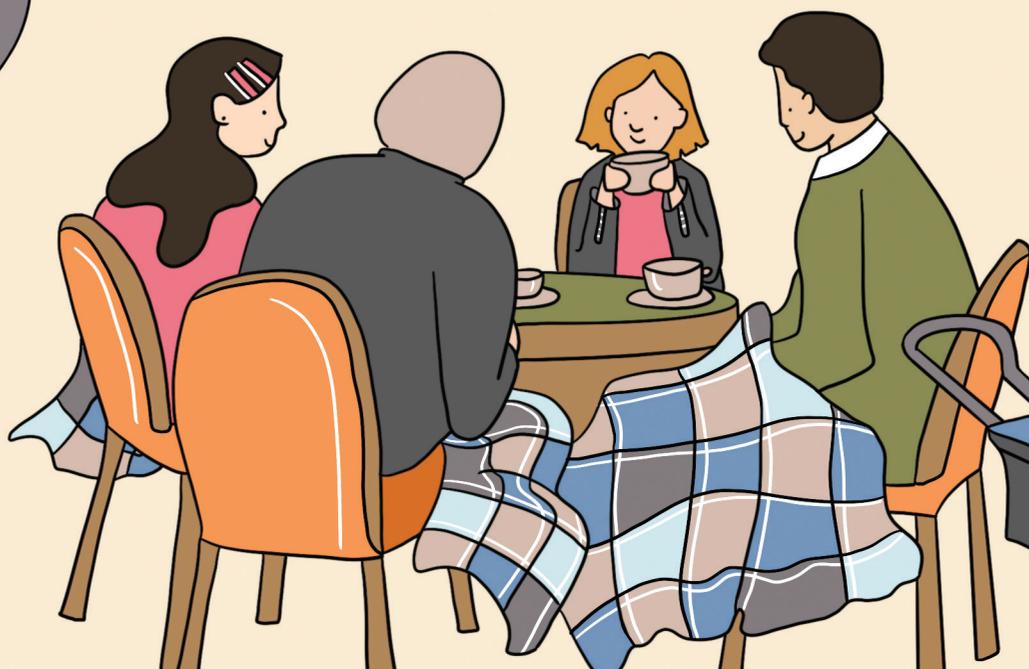
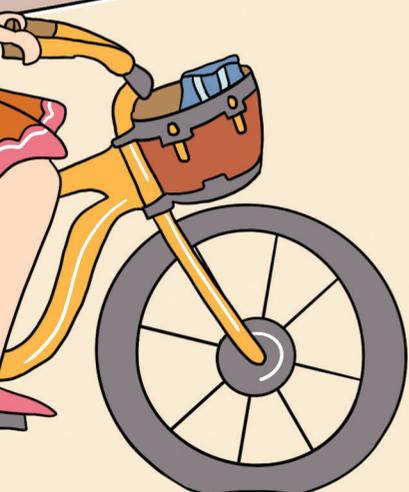




Copenhagen

In Danish, the word *hygge* describes cosiness, comfort and contentment, and in Denmark's capital of Copenhagen autumn is the perfect time to create this special atmosphere. Candles are lit in windows throughout the city, warm drinks are served in cafes, and restaurants offer wool blankets to customers to keep their laps snug while they eat.

Autumn evenings are chilly and dark but Copenhagen's Tivoli amusement park stands out, covered in lights and decorations for Halloween. You can spot friendly ghosts and scarecrows, watch the light show and see over 20000 pumpkins scattered throughout the gardens. Each year there is a competition to find the biggest pumpkin in all of Denmark, and the finalists are lined up on the lawn inside Tivoli for everyone to see.







Zurich

Winter in Switzerland coincides with the Christmas season, and traditional activities run all through December in the city of Zurich.

The city's oldest Christmas market is held in the Old Town, with wooden cabins popping up to sell handmade crafts and gourmet food. Zurich's winter days often only reach temperatures of around 2-degrees Celsius, so sipping on heated punch and hot chocolate keeps your tummy (and hands!) warm while you browse for a unique Christmas keepsake.

The wintertime is ideal for eating Swiss specialties in Zurich, like cheese over meat and pickles (*raclette*) or melted cheese fondue. Fondue is served in a big pot and eaten by dipping bread into the cheese using extra-long forks. You can try a chocolate version too, where pieces of fruit or pastry are dipped into a big bowl of melted chocolate.

