
Weather Watch

Background Information:

Weather is the condition of the atmosphere at any certain time and place. It changes constantly. The atmosphere is the air that surrounds the Earth. Weather can be hot, cold, wet or dry. To understand more about climate change, twin satellites named GRACE, will orbit the earth and track water movement on and beneath Earth's surface and track the movement and changes in ice sheets and global sea level. Water makes clouds, rain, fog, snow, and thunder. Without water, weather would not change and living things would die. Deserts have very little water. In the desert the weather stays mostly the same and only things that need little water can survive. Weather forecasters or meteorologists try to predict the weather in the future. This can be helpful for travel plans, for planting crops, and knowing when a disaster is approaching. Scientists use images taken from satellites to help them make predictions. Sometimes they are correct, but weather changes so much that they are sometimes incorrect. Forecasts are really hypotheses, or educated guesses, about the weather. Forecasts can be obtained from the newspaper, radio, computer and television weekly, daily and even hourly. Students will keep a weather watch for the week. The class will forecast the weather together!

Objectives:

At the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Define words related to weather.
- Understand what a forecast is and how to make an educated guess.
- Keep an accurate and updated weather chart.
- Know that GRACE will help predict climate change by tracking water as it moves on and beneath Earth's surface, movement and changes in ice sheets, and changes to the global sea level.

Standards:

Science: unifying concepts and processes; earth and space science; science in personal and social perspectives; life science.

Language Arts: communication; writing skills

Vocabulary:

Weather

Atmosphere

Desert

Forecast

Meteorologist

Hypothesis

Materials:

Weather chart

Computer with Internet access

Daily newspaper

Television

Directions to the Teacher:

1. Review background information about weather. Ask students if they have ever seen or heard a weather forecast. If so, where?
2. Show students the weather forecast on the Internet [www.weatherchannel.com], in the daily newspaper and on television. Compare similarities and differences in weather forecasts. Write these down on chart paper or on the blackboard.
3. Hand out weather charts. Have students fill in the weather for **Day One**. Use the key on the weather chart.
4. Have students complete weather chart daily for a period of time. Discuss results.

Extensions:

- Write a poem about the weather.
- Draw a picture that shows your favorite temperature and activities.
- Students will interview their parents/guardians and ask them why knowing about the weather forecast is important to them.

References / Resources:

Gardner, Robert and Webster, David. Science Projects About Weather. Enslow: Springfield, NJ 1994.

Website: <http://www.weatherchannel.com>

Weather Watch Chart

Directions: Record the daily weather and daily weather forecast by drawing the correct picture on the chart below.

				
rainy	snowy	sunny	cloudy	partly cloudy

This Week's Weather

DAY ONE	DAY TWO	DAY THREE	DAY FOUR	DAY FIVE
