

Lesson 1: Whatever the Weather

Getting Started

? Questions to Explore

- How does the weather affect living things?
- Why do we study and observe weather?



Facts and Definitions

- A **meteorologist** is a scientist who studies the weather.

⦿ Skills

- Describe weather using quantitative measures of temperature, wind direction, wind speed, and precipitation. (S)
- Identify and use common tools to measure weather: wind vane (wind direction), anemometer (wind velocity), thermometer, and rain gauge. (S)
- Gather information using simple equipment and tools. (S)

✂ Materials

- colored pencils or markers
- thermometer (kit)
- dictionary

Introduction

Ask your child to brainstorm a list of all the words she can think of related to weather. Then ask her to explain how each word relates to weather. Explain that in this unit she will learn about the weather in the environment and how it affects living things.

Activities

Activity 1: Whatever the Weather

Ask your child to read the vocabulary list on the "Whatever the Weather" page and match each definition with a word. She can look up definitions of words she is not familiar with in a dictionary. Help her understand how to pronounce each word. Over the next week, review the definitions daily. Ask her to use each word in a sentence related to the weather. She can write the sentence or say it out loud.

Answer Key:

- wind: air that is moving
- hurricane: a violent tropical storm with rain and high winds
- meteorologist: a scientist who studies weather
- precipitation: water that falls from clouds in the form of rain, sleet, hail, or snow
- tornado: a violent spiraling wind storm
- barometer: an instrument used to measure air pressure

Activity 2: Perfect Weather

Ask your child to write a paragraph or poem that describes her favorite type of weather and why she enjoys it. She can write or copy her work on the "Perfect Weather" page. Remind her that people enjoy different types of weather. Some people love cold, snowy weather because they love skiing, while others like hot, sunny weather because they enjoy surfing. When she finishes her poem or paragraph, ask her to draw and color her favorite weather in the window at the top of the page.

Reading and Questions

Tell your child that the book for this unit was written by a **meteorologist**, a scientist who studies the weather. Ask her to read the following pages in *The Kids' Book of Weather Forecasting*:

p. 7 ("What does a meteorologist do?")

pp. 10-11 ("Keep a Weather Log")

Then pose the following questions for her to answer. (Tell your child she does not have to create her own weather log. Weather log pages are provided in this lesson.)

1. What is a meteorologist's job?

A meteorologist studies the weather, tries to predict what the weather will be, and shares the information with other people.

2. What do meteorologists call the weather prediction they share with other people?

A forecast

3. Why do you think keeping a weather log would be useful?

Answers will vary. Your child may say that it could help her learn more about the weather or look for weather patterns so she can predict future weather.

Activity 3: Weather Log

A weather log is a diary of the weather. For ten days your child will use the "Weather Log" pages to record the date (example: Saturday, September 12), temperature, sky conditions (cloudy, clear, partly cloudy, snowy, rainy), how the weather feels (cool, cold, warm, hot), and an outside activity she participated in that day or would recommend for that type of weather. She should fill in the log at the same time each day. (The days do not need to be consecutive. There will be a reminder at the beginning of each day's lesson for your child to fill out the various weather logs she will be keeping in this unit.)

NOTE: For this activity your child can use either a bulb thermometer or a digital thermometer. The best place for her to check the outside temperature is in the shade. A bulb thermometer will take a few minutes to reflect an accurate temperature. She can record the degrees in Fahrenheit on her weather log. If she is using a bulb thermometer, help her as needed for the first few days. She will work more with reading bulb thermometers in Lesson 3.

Wrapping Up

Ask your child to describe different types of weather and how the weather affects our activities. As needed, give examples of weather, and ask her to describe appropriate types of activities for each one. For example, "It's a cold and rainy day. What might you do today?"

Life Application

Encourage your child to watch or listen to a weather report every day over the next two to three weeks.

Whatever The Weather



Directions: Read through the vocabulary list and decide which definition fits with each word. Use each word in a sentence.

Word Box	meteorologist	wind	barometer	tornado	hurricane	precipitation
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Definitions:

_____ Air that is moving

_____ A violent tropical storm with rain and high winds

_____ A scientist who studies weather

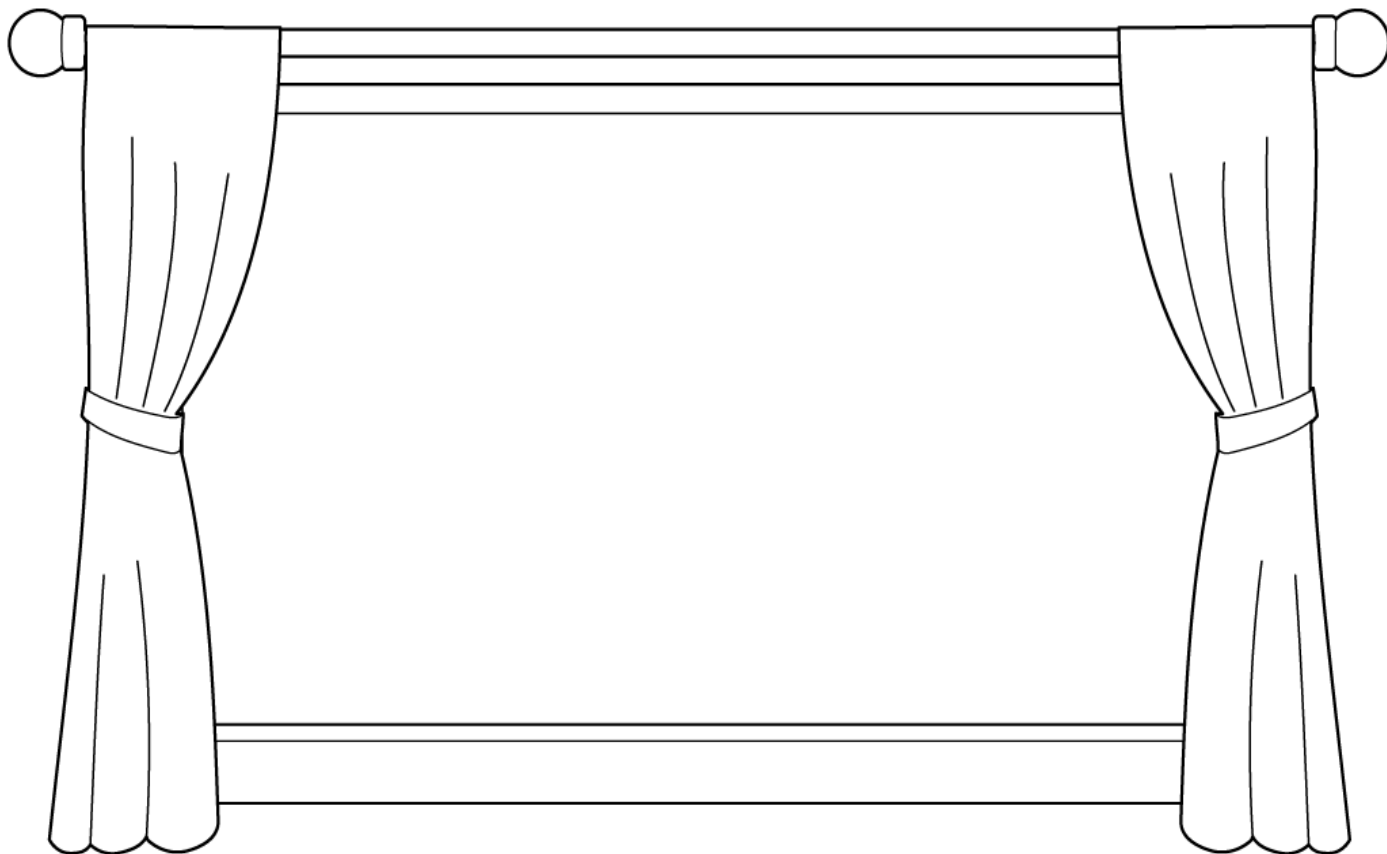
_____ Water that falls from clouds in the form of rain, sleet, hail, or snow

_____ A violent spiraling wind storm

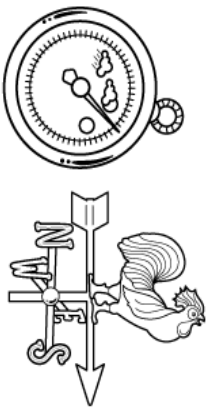
_____ An instrument used to measure air pressure

Perfect Weather

Directions: Write a paragraph or poem to describe your favorite type of weather and why you enjoy it. Then illustrate the type of weather in the window.



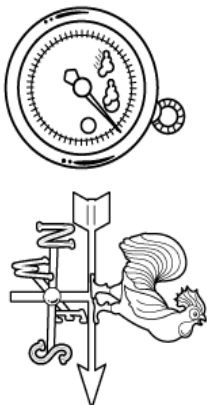
WEATHER LOG



Directions: Record the date, temperature, sky conditions, and how the weather feels each day. Recommend an outside activity.

DATE	TEMPERATURE	SKY CONDITIONS	HOW DOES IT FEEL?	OUTSIDE ACTIVITY
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

WEATHER LOG



Directions: Record the date, temperature, sky conditions, and how the weather feels each day. Recommend an outside activity.

DATE	TEMPERATURE	SKY CONDITIONS	HOW DOES IT FEEL?	OUTSIDE ACTIVITY
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				