



What's the weather? Teacher notes

Key Stage 1

Science:

- Obtaining and presenting evidence
- Considering evidence

Overview

These activities look at how the weather can be observed and measured:

1. Using words to describe the weather
2. Fine weather to fly

NOTE: a suitable risk assessment must be performed before carrying out any practical activity.



Activity 1: Using words to describe the weather

This activity encourages children to observe and describe the weather using their own words. In this way, it is possible to see that different people have different points of view. Subjective or personal descriptions could lead to misunderstandings.

Preparation

- Weather description prompt cards

Activity Notes

Have children go outside and observe the weather. At this stage don't give them any clues on what to look for.

Return to the classroom and have the children work in small groups. Each group discusses the weather and how they would describe it using the prompt cards.

When completed, have groups talk to each other and compare how they have described the weather. Are they all the same? How could the descriptions mean different things to different people?

Conclude by seeing if the children can think of ways to make the description of the weather more reliable. i.e. by taking measurements that can be repeated and are reliable.

Extension

Have children draw symbols to represent the weather. Each symbol should have an associated description. These symbols can be used to describe the weather in a classroom display.



Freezing cold	Very cold	Cold
Warm	Hot	Very hot
Very rainy	Hard rain	Rainy
Drizzle	Dry	Very dry
Windy	Very windy	Still
Calm	No wind	Little wind
Very cloudy	Cloudy sky	Light clouds
Dark clouds	Fluffy clouds	Clear sky
Foggy	Misty	Clear
Snowy	Icy	Slushy

Activity 2: Fine weather to fly

In this activity, children consider the effects different weather conditions may have on different types of aircraft. What type of weather is good for flying?

Preparation

- Flying machines and weather presentation

Activity notes

Simply use the presentation to look at a range of flying machines. Discuss with the children what effect the weather conditions shown on each slide could have on the craft and the passengers or pilots they carry.

What type of weather is good for flying?

End by having children suggest the weather factors that should be considered before undertaking a flight. This could include things such as:

- Wind speed and direction (especially for take-off and landing)
- Visibility
- Cloud levels
- Snow or ice on the runway
- Temperature

Extension

Have children watch a local weather forecast on TV and make a note of the prediction for the following day. Compare this prediction with the actual weather they observe the next day. How accurate was the weather forecast?