



Program: Wee Weather
Pre-Visit Activities
Grades K-2



Virginia Air & Space Center
600 Settlers Landing Road • Hampton, Virginia 23669
(757) 727-0900 • www.vasc.org

The following Standards of Learning objectives are addressed in the Wee Weather Program:

Science

1.7 Students will investigate and understand the relationship of seasonal change and weather to the activities and life processes of plants and animals. Key concepts include how temperatures, light, and precipitation bring about changes in (c) people (dress, recreation, and work).

2.6 Student will investigate and understand that weather and seasonal changes affect plants, animals, and their surroundings. Key concepts include: (a) effects on growth and behavior of living things and (b) weathering and erosion of the land surface.

Activities

These activities are intended for use before your visit to the Virginia Air and Space Center. It is beneficial for the students to have some prior knowledge about the content area covered in the program. All of the activities can be tailored to your specific classroom needs, and procedures listed are suggestions for teaching.

Activity 1: Scavenger Hunt with Weather's Basics

Set up - Place different articles related to weather and its changes all around your classroom. Have a different clue placed in or with each item as a hint for the next item the class

needs to find. Start a discussion with your class on Weather. Ask, "What is Weather?" and "Where does it come from?" Accept all answers and then ask your students, "Does weather affect us?" These questions will lead nicely into the Scavenger Hunt, and will give you an opportunity to explain to your students that weather is defined as the daily changes in our earth's atmosphere.

Here is a suggested list of items or ideas that you can use to place around your classroom:

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------|
| Rain Boots | Beach Umbrella | Sunscreen | Mr. Sun |
| Warm Sweater | Thermometer | Fall Leaves | Snow Man |
| Blooming Flowers | Clouds | Tornado | Bugs |
| Swim Suit | Kite | Chicken Noodle Soup | |

*Note: If you do not have all of these items on hand you can always print out paper cut outs, using online resources or clip art.

You can use all these hints to lead a discussion with your class on how weather is related to many of our daily activities. Here is a list of suggested hints that you can read to your students to help find the above items during the Scavenger Hunt.

1. When I got up to get ready for school this morning the sky looked dark and gray. From my observation it is likely to rain today, so what should I wear to protect my feet from getting wet?
Answer: Rain Boots
2. My mom says that it is very hot outside today so before we go outside to play she wants us to put something on our skin to protect us from the sun's harmful UV rays. What is this item that we can rub on our skin?
Answer: Sunscreen
3. The Weather Man on the news this morning said it was going to be a hot muggy day with the temperatures reaching a high of 98 degrees. What instrument did the Weather Man use to measure the temperature outside?
Answer: Thermometer
4. It is that time of year when all the trees start changing colors and the wind blows just a little colder. What starts falling all over the ground from the trees?
Answer: Leaves
5. Today the sky is clear and the wind is breezy. It is the perfect weather to fly ____ outside?
Answer: Kite
6. Today we are going to the beach because it is hot and muggy. My mom is packing the car up with all the stuff we will need. She says we will need some shade to get out of the sun so she packed an umbrella. What kind of umbrella did she pack?
Answer: Beach Umbrella
7. Spring has come and the sky is blue. There is new growth blooming everywhere, causing the birds to chirp and the honey bees to fly from bloom to bloom collecting pollen. What are the bees collecting pollen from?
Answer: Blooming Flowers
8. Winter has set in and flu season is here because of the extreme temperature changes. I have the sniffles so my Mom has made a warm frothy bowl of my favorite "I don't feel good" soup. What kind of soup makes you feel so much better when you have the sniffles?
Answer: Chicken Noodle Soup

9. Along with water, our plants and animals need what to grow? It comes from the sky; it illuminates rays, and can give us a sun burn without the right protection.

Answer: Mr. Sun

10. Our weather is ever changing and can bring beneficial changes to us, but it can also bring “not so friendly” storms our way. What kind of weather disturbance can make a whole lot of noise and produce a swirling tunnel that’s capable of picking up anything in its path?

Answer: Tornado

11. Spring is here and the weather seems just right for outside play. Mom is making us wear repellent outside so we don’t get bitten. What pests did spring bring upon us that have us using repellent? Answer: Bugs

12. It is a warm sunny day outside and my Dad and I are making shapes out of the fluffy white things flowing through the sky. What are those fluffy white things in the sky?

Answer: Clouds

13. My family is going to the pool today to try and escape the heat. My mother told me to go upstairs and get dressed. What article of clothing do you wear to the pool?

Answer: Swim Suit

14. It is winter time and the snow has fallen. My neighbors are outside rolling up huge balls of snow to make a man. They are giving him a nose made out of a carrot and his eyes are made out of buttons. What kind of man are my neighbors making? Answer: Snow Man

15. I am getting dressed for school today and my mother said that it is very cold and chilly outside. What kind of warm and fuzzy shirt can I wear that will keep me warm and comfortable all day? Answer: Sweater

Extension: Depending on the size of your class and how well they work together as a team, you can alter this activity in many ways:

- 1) Shorten the scavenger hunt and work through just a couple of hints a day.
- 2) Spanning the activity out over a whole week.
- 3) Move the scavenger hunt to a different location other than your classroom. It may be more fun to hide the items outside, where you can make observations about the current weather while you hunt for the items.

Activity 2: Weather Measurement

Explain to your students that a Meteorologist is someone who measures and predicts the weather. Meteorologists have the important job of letting communities know what kind of weather to predict in their area. They are able to predict and measure the weather using special instruments. This discussion gives you the opportunity to introduce some weather vocabulary. This vocabulary should include:

- a. Thermometer- measures the temperature of air.
- b. Wind Vane- tells you from which direction the wind is blowing.
- c. Rain Gauge- measures the amount of rain fall.

Explain to your students that Meteorologists help save lives by being able to predict certain storms like hurricanes, tornados, and blizzards. Discuss different types of storms and weather safety. Put together a list of things you should have on hand during a storm.

Extension: You can elaborate on this activity by staging a tornado drill or have the class put together a weather safety kit.

Resources

Websites

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/kids/fun-stuff/water-cycle/wheel-instruct.html> *Water Cycle Wheel Template

<http://www.proteacher.net/archive/posts/2002/04/11/25892.html>

*You can read the Adventure of Randy the Rain Drop with your class. It is a cute story about the water cycle.

<http://www.weatherwizkids.com/index.htm>

*This is a neat site that has good weather pictures and a list of educational experiments you can do with your class. Try the making thunder with your students.

Books

Always Copycub. Richard Edwards. 2001.

Little Cloud. Eric Carle. 1996.

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf. Lois Ehlert. 1991.

Sea, Sand, Me! Patricia Hubbell. 2001

The Magic School Bus Kicks Up a Storm. Nancy White.2000.

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