



March Theme Weather



Leek's Rainy Day is based around the fact that Leek is trying to get out of the rain. Some times of year are usually wetter or drier, hotter or cooler (although not so predictably the last two years!). It's a good opportunity to look at British weather.

Try the activities below or some of your own, and check out the web links too.

Activity One: Make a Weather Monitor

Children can either make individual weather monitors or can all contribute to the decoration and build of a larger classroom one. This can be used daily to help children take note of and record the weather.

For an individual one, you'll need some card and a paper fastener for each child.

Either the adults or older children should cut a circle of card and an arrow shape.

Children can then draw and colour weather pictures at the 12 o'clock, 3 o'clock, 6 o'clock and 9 o'clock positions on the circle. Usual pictures are sun, wind, rain and snow. Either pictures of the weather itself (e.g. raindrops, sun, swirly wind shape and snowflake) or a depiction of life in that weather (e.g. sunglasses, umbrella, bendy trees and a snowman), whatever they are keen to draw.

Then decorate the arrow. The arrow is then attached to the circle with the paper fastener.

Activity Two – Make a Cloud

You need a metal saucer or plate, a glass or something clear, an ice cube or ice pack, and some warm water. Put the ice into the metal plate to cool it down. When the metal is really cold (you can also speed this up by putting it in the freezer, but still use the ice to keep it cold during the experiment), pour a little warm water into the glass and put the metal plate on top of the glass.

You will see a cloud forming near the top of the glass.

This is how clouds form in real life. Warm air from near the ground rises up and when it meets the colder air in the sky it cools forms droplets of water (condenses) which gives the cloud appearance.

Activity Three – Measure the Rain

Make your own rain gauge to measure the rainfall. This will only work well during rainy or cool periods - hot weather will evaporate moisture over a few days although the design of the gauge will reduce this.

Cut the top section off a 2 litre plastic bottle, cutting off the pouring section and the sloping neck, so you're cutting through the straight vertical side. Invert this into the bottom section. This provides a good collection surface but a smaller evaporation surface. Fit a measure to the size, either taping on a paper measure or writing onto tape.

There is a good diagram of this kind of gauge at the Met Office site http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/education/primary/students/the_rain.html

Create a measuring chart to track the rainfall each day for a week or a month.

You can then compare the best places to collect water, how many wet days per month, etc.

Useful Web Links

What is weather?

BBC site which has animations with suggested class questions about different elements of weather.
www.bbc.co.uk/schools/whatisweather/

Balamory Wind Story

An interactive story about a very windy day in Balamory.
www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/balamory/stories/weather.shtml

Rainbow 6 piece online puzzle

http://www.first-school.ws/puzzlesonline/alphabet/r_rainbow.htm

Story about Drippy the Raindrop and his adventures in a cloud. Audio available.

<http://www.kimballmedia.com/Drippy/DrippysWorldTrialStories/ToMountainsAndBack/Entry.htm>

Boogies Beebies - Wacky Weather

Help pick the right clothes for different types of weather.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/boogiebeebies/play/weather/>

Weather Safari

See how different weather affects animals from different parts of the world.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/somethingspecial/songs/weather.shtml>

Some Useful Weather Related Books

Wonderful Weather (First Science Experiments) by Shar Levine & Leslie Johnstone

Simple experiments and activities that have been designed specifically for very young scientists

Alfie Weather by Shirley Hughes

As Alfie demonstrates, there's always lots to do come rain or shine. Whether it's exploring frozen puddles on a frosty winter's day or wading in a cool stream on a hot summer's afternoon

Lila and the Secret of Rain by David Conway and Jude Daly

Lila's Kenyan village needs rain to save the crops and the well from drying up. Lila is so worried that when her grandfather whispers to her the secret of rain, she decides to go and talk to the sky herself.