

Making a DIY Barometer...

What does a barometer do and why does it do it?

A barometer measures atmospheric pressure, which is also barometric pressure. Atmospheric pressure is an indicator of weather.

Although it is not visible, air (atmospheric) pressure affects the weather pattern to a great extent. Warm air rises creating a low pressure while cool air sinks creating high pressure. As a result, warm air rises and cools; leading to cloudiness, wind, and precipitation. Low air pressure produces unstable weather conditions like rain or storms.

Making a DIY Barometer...

Materials:

- Quart Jar
- Balloon and a Rubber band
- Scissors ,Permanent marker, and Tape
- Plastic drinking straw
- 8 1/2" x 11" card stock and Glue

Take an empty, clean quart jar or any glass container with a wide mouth. Using a pair of scissors, cut off the narrow mouth and tube area of a balloon. Take the remaining dome of the balloon and stretch it tight and smooth over the mouth of the jar. Secure it at the neck of the jar with a rubber band.

Take the scissors and cut off the bendable section of the straw (if it has one) and cut the one end of the straw at an angle to create a sharp point. Darken this point with the marker so that the point is easy to see against a white background. Take the cut straw and secure the un-pointed end at the center of the stretched balloon with tape. The pointed end of the straw should be extend out from the lip of the jar.

To measure the pressure, create a graduated scale on the cardstock or use the provided gauge (copy and glue onto the cardstock).

