

'Watching' the Weather'

Weather Watching Activities:

<http://www.cyberbee.com/coolweather/weatherlessons.html>

Create a backyard weather station. Keep a daily record in a journal or on a calendar of the weather in your area. Record your name, the location of your weather station (address), time, and date for each entry. Your station could include a thermometer, a rain gauge, and a barometer. Your observations and data can be compared to what is predicted locally. This information is usually available in your local newspaper, on the radio or TV, along with records set on that date in history. Did the prediction in the paper or on the radio or TV match what you recorded? Was your data close to any historic record? Can you make a prediction for the weather using what you can learn about reading clouds and the changing barometric pressure?

Using an outdoor thermometer will give you the daily temperature. A rain gauge will measure daily rainfall. A barometer will tell you the air pressure. Changing air pressure can predict a change in weather. And by learning to watch the clouds, you can make some of your own weather predictions. Things to remember:

- Do not place your thermometer in direct sunlight. Check it once or twice at the same time each day.
- A rain gauge should be in an area where capturing the rainfall is not effected by trees or buildings. Empty it everyday. Measure the rainfall to the nearest quarter inch.
- A barometer doesn't need to be outside. Place it in an open space in your home.

Note: See the included DIY instructions for making your own rain gauge and barometer for your weather station.

Older students may wish to take their data and compare it to recorded weather from 2000, 2005 and 2010. (2015 is not available at this time) This information may be found for local weather in the archives of the Ohio University's, Scalia Lab at ...

<https://scalia.com/current/archives/daily-extremes/>

Using the same dates as you have recorded in your journal or on your calendar, compare it to the data from Scalia Lab. Make a line graph using different colors for each year to compare the year's data for each; temperature, rainfall, and barometer levels. What changes do you observe? Can you see any trends; higher/lower temperatures, increased or decreased rainfall? Now compare your own weather predictions to professional forecasts from...

Farmer's Almanac Forecast for 2020 by the month...

<https://www.farmersalmanac.com/long-range-weather-forecast/midwest-great-lakes-us/>

Note: These predictions are projected for a general week's forecast but not daily. Still how close was the prediction?