



Weather Works - Pre and Post Visit Materials

The goal of this program and its pre and post-visit activities is to learn about weather and climate.

Pre-Visit Activities

1. Go over new vocabulary words as a class. (some words may have multiple definitions but the ones pertaining to the program are listed)
 - Aerosols: a colloid of solid molecules suspended in a gas
 - Atmosphere: the layer of gases surrounding a planet
 - Climate: the usual weather patterns for a specific place over a long period of time
 - Cloud: a visible collection of vaporized water molecules
 - Condensation: the change in the physical matter from gas to liquid
 - Dispersion: the process of a chemical spreading out over a large area
 - Energy: the ability to do work
 - Evaporate: the process of the particles on the surface of a liquid turning into a gaseous form
 - Hail: pellets of frozen rain
 - Hurricane: a tropical storm that forms in warm waters and is characterized by a low pressure center and strong winds spiraling around it
 - Lightning: a sudden release of electricity during a storm
 - Mass: the amount of matter in an object
 - Meteorology: the science and study of weather and climate
 - Rainbow: a collection of water droplets on which light hits in such a way as to show all the colors of the visible spectrum
 - Temperature: the measurement of heat
 - Tornado: a rotating column of air between the ground and a cumulonimbus cloud
 - Visible Spectrum: the spectrum of the electromagnetic radiation that is visible to the naked eye
 - Water Cycle: the cycle of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection that moves water around our planet
 - Weather: the state of air at a particular time and place

2. Track your weather

- Materials: computers, paper and pencils
- Have students track the weather for a week, looking at the prediction and checking to see if it was correct. Use <http://www.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/getForecast?query=27.800600,-97.396400&sp=KTXCORPU53> to look at weather for your area.
- Have students create a graph to show how the weather changed through the week.

Post-Visit Activities

1. Have the students journal about their trip. The prompt should be, “What was your favorite part of the trip to the museum?” They can either write or draw their response.
2. Cloud Layer foldable
 - Materials: white and blue construction paper, markers/colored pencils, glue sticks, scissors, stapler
 - Review the cloud layers and their shapes.
 - Have students create stratus, alto, and cirrus clouds out of the white construction paper.
 - Cut the blue paper into three strips lengthwise. One the bottom piece glue the stratus cloud. Cut a second piece about two thirds down and glue on the alto cloud. Cut the third paper about one third down and glue on the cirrus cloud.
 - On the back side of each paper write information about each cloud layer.
 - Staple the layers together. See below

