

SCIENCE









Lesson 4

Prep Unit 3

Topic: Observing weather

Discovering weather types: Cloudy, foggy, rainy, stormy

Lesson concepts

-  Daily and seasonal changes in our environment, including the weather, affect everyday life
-  Science involves exploring and observing the world using the senses
-  Questions can obtain responses
-  Observations can be made using the senses
-  Observations can be discussed and ideas can be represented
-  Observations and ideas can be shared

Learning alerts

Be aware of:

- students thinking that clouds should always be represented as white.

Suggested next steps for learning

- Explain that cloud colour and shape vary.

Today students will:

- ▶ understand that the effects of clouds, rain and storms are observable
- ▶ represent their observations and share their ideas.

Resources

Find and prepare

Sheet — Letter from Wilma 4

Sheet — Clouds are not all the same

Colouring in pencils

Optional — a variety of collage materials including coloured paper, tissue paper, cellophane, cotton wool, felt pieces, material scraps, wool, paint and glue

Key terms

weather

For definitions and explanations of terms, please see the [Glossary](#).

Lesson

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Share ideas about clouds and related weather

Say to students

‘ In this science lesson we are going to learn about **clouds** and the weather that goes with different types of clouds. To begin with, we have a letter from Wilma. ’



1. Read the letter on **Sheet** — [Letter from Wilma 4](#) to students.

Focus questions

Q: *Have you ever watched the clouds, like Wilma?*

Q: *What have you noticed about clouds?*

A: For example: I've seen different shapes in the clouds; sometimes clouds are white and sometimes they are grey; rain comes from the clouds.

Q: *How do you know which clouds have rain in them?*

A: They look very dark grey and sometimes you might see lightning in them.

Q: *Are there any other signs that rain is coming?*

A: For example: you might hear thunder; it gets darker sometimes.



Note

Watch the **Video** — How do you know when rain is coming? (ABC Splash) <https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/30177/how-do-you-know-when-rain-is-coming->

This video illustrates signs we can observe when rain is approaching.

Say to students

‘ As with other types of weather, our senses help us know when rain is coming. ’

Focus questions

Q: *What can you see when it is raining or stormy?*

A: For example: I can see clouds in the sky; when it is raining or stormy they are grey or black; I see the lightning; sometimes I see the clouds moving.

Q: *What can you hear?*

A: For example: I hear the wind blowing when a storm is coming and then I hear thunder and rain falling; the rain falling very loud on our roof.

Q: *Do you think we can use our sense of taste or smell to observe when it is raining or stormy?*

A: For example: we can taste the rain; it smells different when it has rained.

INV

Explore different types of clouds

Say to students

‘ Weather scientists are very skilled at identifying different types of clouds. They know that all clouds are not the same and use their Science knowledge to predict or forecast the weather. ’



2. Locate **Sheet** — [Clouds are not all the same](#).

Say to students

‘ Look at the clouds on this sheet. We can see that clouds can be very different types. We know that some clouds hold rain and others don't. Point to the clouds on this sheet that are likely to be rain clouds. ’

Focus questions

Q: *If I wanted to draw weather symbols that showed the different types of clouds, how could I do this?*

A: For example: you could colour them dark grey for rain clouds and white for others.

Q: *Why do you think some clouds are rain clouds and others are not?*

A: For example: I don't know; they are bigger; they are more waterproof.

INV

Represent the observable effects of clouds and related weather

Say to students

‘ You are going to do a drawing or collage about the weather to show what you have learned so far.

You can choose any type of weather that includes clouds.

You can show the sky and the land if you wish so we can see the effects of this weather. You can include living things too.

Make your drawing or collage on this piece of paper using any of these materials. ’

3. Display A3 paper, colouring in pencils, collage materials, paint, scissors and glue.
 - a. Allow time for students to create the collage.

Note

Look for the thinking and ideas students show in their collage, rather than their artistic ability.