

Cloud Types and their Weather

4th Grade Level:

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References:

Benchmarks:

- ES 7: Describe the weather which accompanies cumulus, cumulonimbus, cirrus, and stratus clouds

Materials:

- Science journal

Target Concept:

This lesson will familiarize the students with their science journals, how to make and record observations, and the cloud types and their associated weather.

Initial Introduction:

You should review the various cloud types (e.g. cumulus, cirrus, stratus) as well as their defining characteristics (e.g. shape, color, distance above ground level). You should also teach the students how to take proper notes in a science journal (e.g. date every page, write clearly, don't tear out pages).

Procedure:

Day One

1. Go outside and have the students observe the sky and clouds.
 - a. Have them record the cloud type, color, relative distance above ground, wind, amount of sun
 - b. Have them record their prediction for the weather for the remainder of the day

Day Two

1. Review the weather for the previous day and record it under the prediction made
2. Repeat step 1 from Day One

Day 3 and on

1. Repeat step 1 from Day Two
2. Continue to repeat step 1 from Day One until the end of the week

End of Week 1

1. Review the predictions for each day
2. Ask the students if their predictions match the actual weather
3. Ask the students if what they observed about the weather matches what they learned about the cloud types and their associated weather

Target Observations:

- The cloud types can, sometimes, offer a clue as to what type of weather we'll experience
- There are several types of clouds and they all have their own associated weather

Final Target Concept:

The students should have learned that there are various cloud types and that each has its own defining characteristics and associated weather. They should also be more familiar with how to make observations and how to record observations.

Summary & Discussion:

The teacher should review all the cloud types, even the water cycle, the defining characteristics of each cloud type, and how to make observations. You can play jeopardy style games to review the cloud types or even quiz the students.