

Exploring Weather Websites

4th Grade

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1. References:

- “Water Affects the Weather” lesson plan from 4th grade curriculum guide
- www.weather.com

2. Benchmarks:

ES-4 & ES-5 (Benchmark D): Describe weather by measurable quantities such as temperature, direction, wind speed, precipitation, and barometric pressure. Record local weather information on a calendar or map and describe changes over a period of time.

3. Objectives:

The internet is an easy source to check current, future and past weather from anywhere around the world. The ultimate goal here is to allow the students to locate their own weather data using the latest technological resources.

4. Materials:

- Weather Journals
- Laptop or desktop computers

5. Initial Demonstration:

Show the students a transparency taken from www.weather.com for your favorite city that love to visit or would like to visit. Explain to them that the internet is a good resource for finding out the weather data for any city in the world. On the overhead, point out important information that one might be interested in knowing. Also explain that them that they will be using this website to find out weather information about their favorite city as well. Following this discussion, have the students take their Weather Journals along with them to the computer lab. Once in the computer lab, proper instructions for browsing the internet will be given.

6. Target Observations:

- Depending on the location of the student’s chosen city, the weather may be quite comparable or extremely different to that of Columbus, Ohio for the same day or week.

7. Target Model:

- Weather can be described in measurable terms such as temperature, wind direction, wind speed, precipitation, barometric pressure and cloud conditions. The newspaper, television, radio, and the internet are resources that help us know the weather.

8. Procedure:

Begin by asking all students to go explore the website, www.weather.com. Each student must choose his or her favorite city, or a city that they have always wanted to visit. This city will be typed into the white box on the opening screen that says, “Enter city or U.S. zip”. The students should explore the type of data found on the website, as well as any weather maps available. Once they have located the weather data for their city, the students should complete the table on **Page 21** in their Weather Journal. Once that is complete, have them search for the weather conditions in Columbus, Ohio. After recording today’s local weather on **Page 21**, the students then must compare the weather conditions between the two cities. On **Page 22** in their journals, there is a chart where they need to write a comparison for the two cities for each piece of weather data they have collected. Be sure to explain what compare means and give the students an example of comparing weather data for their two cities.

9. Target Observations:

- Columbus, Ohio should experience similar weather patterns as those cities located to the west of Ohio, since the winds blow from west to east in the United States.
- Certain weather conditions in Columbus make the air quality very poor, causing some health problems for people with certain diseases.

10. Revised Target Model:

- Understanding how weather instruments work, weather symbols, and weather patterns within the United States allows one to better predict the weather for a local area.

11. Summary:

Students have used the internet to locate the weather conditions for two cities. This data was then used to write comparisons between two cities as complete sentences in their Weather Journals.