May: Unit 5B: Meteorology

Content Area: **Science**
Course(s):
Time Period: **May**
Length: **2 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

If you've ever counted on a snow day that didn't happen, you'll know that the study of weather is not an exact science. Forecasts often flop because meteorologists must interpret so much different information about phenomena in the atmosphere. In this concept you will learn more about meteorology.

Enduring Understandings

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Describe tools meteorologists use to study weather.
- Interpret a weather map.
- Explain how air masses form and move from one region to another.
- Predict weather changes associated with different types of fronts.
- Explain how clouds and precipitation form.

Essential Questions

- **Overarching Question**
    - How and why is Earth constantly changing?
- **Focus Questions**
    - How do Earth's major systems interact?
    - What regulates weather and climate?
- **Lesson Questions**
    - How do meteorologists study and predict weather?
    - How does the movement of air masses affect weather?
    - Why do clouds and precipitation form?
- **Can You Explain?**

- How does a meteorologist use an understanding of what causes weather to predict a storm?

Instructional Strategies & Learning Activities

The Five Es

- The Five E Instructional Model

  Science Techbook follows the 5E instructional model. As you plan your lesson, the provided Model Lesson includes strategies for each of the 5Es.

- Engage (45–90 minutes)

  Students are presented with the phenomena of weather and the science of weather prediction. Students begin to formulate ideas around the Can You Explain? (CYE) question.

- Explore (90 minutes)

  Students investigate questions about how scientists predict weather by using evidence from text and media assets. Students complete a Simulation about weather forecasting.

- Explain (45–90 minutes)

  Students construct scientific explanations to the CYE question by including evidence of how scientists use their understanding of what causes weather to make weather predictions.

- Elaborate with STEM (90–135 minutes)

  Students apply their understanding of meteorology as they learn about careers in meteorology, learn about meteorological tools, analyze meteorological data, and model a tornado.

- Evaluate (45–90 minutes)

  Students are evaluated on the state science standards, as well as Standards in ELA/Literacy and Standards in Math standards, using Board Builder and the provided concept summative assessments.

Integration of Career Exploration, Life Literacies and Key Skills

Students will learn about meteorology as a career.

CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills. Digital tools make it possible to analyze and interpret data, including text, images, and sound. These tools allow for broad concepts and data to be more effectively communicated.
TECH.9.4.8.CI.4	Explore the role of creativity and innovation in career pathways and industries.

CRP.K-12.CRP5	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
	An individual's strengths, lifestyle goals, choices, and interests affect employment and income.
TECH.9.4.8.TL.4	Synthesize and publish information about a local or global issue or event (e.g., MSLS4-5, 6.1.8.CivicsPI.3).
TECH.9.4.8.CT.1	Evaluate diverse solutions proposed by a variety of individuals, organizations, and/or agencies to a local or global problem, such as climate change, and use critical thinking skills to predict which one(s) are likely to be effective (e.g., MS-ETS1-2).
	Gathering and evaluating knowledge and information from a variety of sources, including global perspectives, fosters creativity and innovative thinking.
	Increases in the quantity of information available through electronic means have heightened the need to check sources for possible distortion, exaggeration, or misrepresentation.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
	Multiple solutions often exist to solve a problem.
CRP.K-12.CRP9	Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
TECH.9.4.8.IML.1	Critically curate multiple resources to assess the credibility of sources when searching for information.
TECH.9.4.8.IML.5	Analyze and interpret local or public data sets to summarize and effectively communicate the data.
	Some digital tools are appropriate for gathering, organizing, analyzing, and presenting information, while other types of digital tools are appropriate for creating text, visualizations, models, and communicating with others.
TECH.9.4.8.TL.3	Select appropriate tools to organize and present information digitally.
TECH.9.4.8.IML.3	Create a digital visualization that effectively communicates a data set using formatting techniques such as form, position, size, color, movement, and spatial grouping (e.g., 6.SP.B.4, 7.SP.B.8b).
TECH.9.4.8.IML.4	Ask insightful questions to organize different types of data and create meaningful visualizations.
TECH.9.4.8.CI.1	Assess data gathered on varying perspectives on causes of climate change (e.g., cross-cultural, gender-specific, generational), and determine how the data can best be used to design multiple potential solutions (e.g., RI.7.9, 6.SP.B.5, 7.1.NH.IPERS.6, 8.2.8.ETW.4).
CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP10	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP12	Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.

Technolgy Integration

Technology is fully integrated with the Discovery Techbook

Interdisciplinary Connections

LA.RI.6.10	By the end of the year read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.
LA.W.6.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
MA.6.NS.C.5	Understand that positive and negative numbers are used together to describe quantities having opposite directions or values (e.g., temperature above/below zero, elevation above/below sea level, credits/debits, positive/negative electric charge); use positive and negative numbers to represent quantities in real-world contexts, explaining the meaning of 0 in each situation.
LA.RI.6.1	Cite textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
LA.RI.6.2	Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
LA.RI.6.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
LA.RI.6.7	Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

Differentiation

Struggling Students

1. Ask students to use a two-column chart to keep track of the tools scientists use in meteorology and how the data from the tools is used.
2. Start each class period showing that day's weather map for your region. Review what it shows for the day's weather and what might be expected over the following few days.

ELL

1. Assist students in identifying familiar prefixes and/or words within words for each glossary term (for example, *barometer* is from the Greek word *baros*, which means "weight").
2. Encourage students to demonstrate their understanding by drawing concepts. For example, they can create their own illustrations of interacting air masses and the type of weather they produce.

Accelerated Students

1. Using their previous knowledge of meteorology, ask students to brainstorm STEM connections to other disciplines.
2. Have students conduct research to create a map of the United States showing the major significant weather features for different regions. Have them write a short report explaining these patterns.

Differentiation in science can be accomplished in several ways. Once you have given a pre-test to students, you know what information has already been mastered and what they still need to work on. Next, you design activities, discussions, lectures, and so on to teach information to students. The best way is to have two or three groups of students divided by ability level.

While you are instructing one group, the other groups are working on activities to further their knowledge of the concepts. For example, while you are helping one group learn the planet names in order, another group is researching climate, size, and distance from the moon of each planet. Then the groups switch, and you instruct the second group on another objective from the space unit. The first group practices writing the order of the planets and drawing a diagram of them.

Here are some ideas for the classroom when you are using differentiation in science:

- Create a tic-tac-toe board that lists different activities at different ability levels. When students aren't involved in direct instruction with you, they can work on activities from their tic-tac-toe board. These boards have nine squares, like a tic-tac-toe board; and each square lists an activity that corresponds with the science unit. For example, one solar system activity for advanced science students might be to create a power point presentation about eclipses. For beginning students, an activity might be to make a poster for one of the planets and include important data such as size, order from the sun, whether it has moons, and so on.

- Find websites on the current science unit that students can explore on their own.

- Allow students to work in small groups to create a project throughout the entire unit. For example, one group might create a solar system model to scale. Another group might write a play about the solar system. This is an activity these groups can work on while they are not working directly with you.

Differentiation in science gets students excited to learn because it challenges them to expand their knowledge and skills, instead of teaching the whole group concepts they have already mastered.

Modifications & Accommodations

Refer to QSAC EXCEL SMALL SPED ACCOMMOCATIONS spreadsheet in this discipline.

Modifications and Accommodations used in this unit:

IEP and 504 Accommodations will be utilized.

IEP and 504 plans will be utilized.

Benchmark Assessments

Benchmark Assessments are given periodically (e.g., at the end of every quarter or as frequently as once per month) throughout a school year to establish baseline achievement data and measure progress toward a standard or set of academic standards and goals.

Schoolwide Benchmark assessments:

Aimsweb benchmarks 3X a year

Linkit Benchmarks 3X a year

Additional Benchmarks used in this unit:

The students will complete two summative benchmark tests administered by the teacher via Google Forms and Google Classroom. There is one benchmark test administered in the middle of the year around January, and a second one administered in May.

Formative Assessments

Assessment allows both instructor and student to monitor progress towards achieving learning objectives, and can be approached in a variety of ways. **Formative assessment** refers to tools that identify misconceptions, struggles, and learning gaps along the way and assess how to close those gaps. It includes effective tools for helping to shape learning, and can even bolster students' abilities to take ownership of their learning when they understand that the goal is to improve learning, not apply final marks (Trumbull and Lash, 2013). It can include students assessing themselves, peers, or even the instructor, through writing, quizzes, conversation, and more. In short, formative assessment occurs throughout a class or course, and seeks to improve student achievement of learning objectives through approaches that can support specific student needs (Theal and Franklin, 2010, p. 151).

Formative Assessments used in this unit:

Formative assessments from unit.

Summative Assessments

Summative assessments evaluate student learning, knowledge, proficiency, or success at the conclusion of an instructional period, like a unit, course, or program. Summative assessments are almost always formally graded and often heavily weighted (though they do not need to be). Summative assessment can be used to great effect in conjunction and alignment with formative assessment, and instructors can consider a variety of ways to combine these approaches.

Summative assessments for this unit:

Summative assessment from unit.

Instructional Materials

Materials as needed for labs.

Standards

	Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
	Cause and Effect
	Collect data to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence to answer scientific questions or test design solutions under a range of conditions.
SCI.MS.ESS2.D	Weather and Climate
	Planning and carrying out investigations in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include investigations that use multiple variables and provide evidence to support explanations or solutions.
SCI.MS.ESS2.C	The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes
	Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems.
SCI.MS-ESS2-5	Collect data to provide evidence for how the motions and complex interactions of air masses result in changes in weather conditions.
	Assessment does not include recalling the names of cloud types or weather symbols used on weather maps or the reported diagrams from weather stations.
	The complex patterns of the changes and the movement of water in the atmosphere, determined by winds, landforms, and ocean temperatures and currents, are major determinants of local weather patterns.
	Because these patterns are so complex, weather can only be predicted probabilistically.