

Weather Activities!

WEATHER EXPERIMENTS

Help your children understand various weather changes and some of the ways in which the weather is forecasted, with these simple experiments.

THERMOMETER READINGS

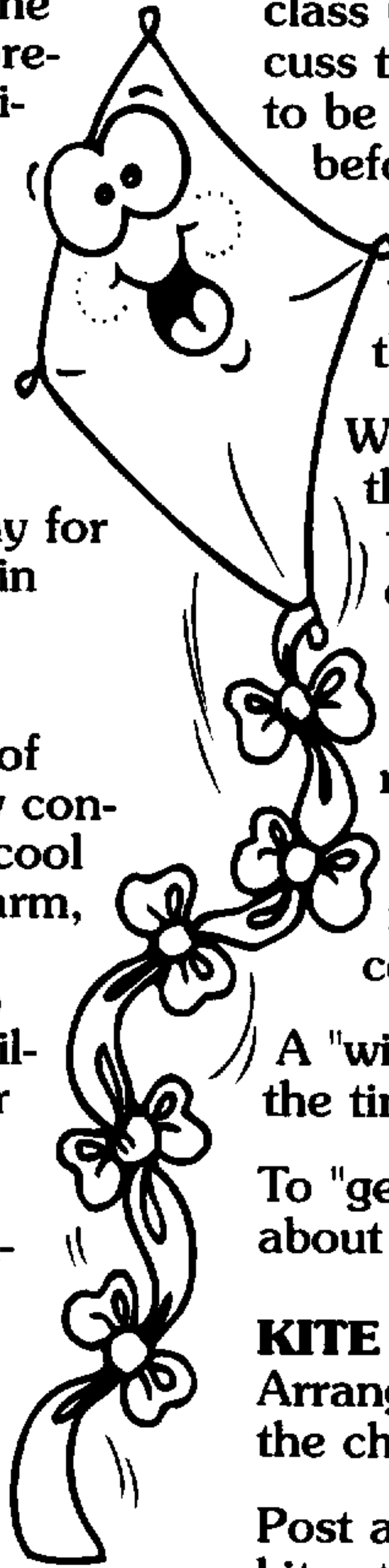
Place a thermometer in a bowl of ice water. Let the children read the temperature. Place the same thermometer in warm water and have the students record the temperature each day for two weeks. Record the results, in graph form, on a chart.

EVAPORATION

Measure out identical amounts of water into two separate shallow containers. Put one container in a cool place and the other one in a warm, sunny location. After several hours, pour the water back into the measuring cups. Ask the children to observe if one container has more water than the other. Explain how water evaporates, condenses into clouds and eventually returns to earth in the form of rain, snow, etc.

MAKE A CLOUD

Freeze ice cubes in a metal tray. Fill a wide-mouthed jar with an inch of very hot water and set the tray of ice cubes on top of the jar. Darken the room and ask the students to observe the jar with a flashlight. They will soon see how the steam from the hot water hits the ice cube tray and forms a cloud inside the jar. Explain that this same thing happens when the warm moisture rises from earth and meets the cold air in the sky. The results are clouds!



WINDY DISCUSSIONS

Write these "windy" sayings on the class board and ask students to discuss their meanings. Encourage them to be creative in their explanations before you reveal their true meanings.

When something is "written on the wind" it is not very lasting.

When something is "blowing in the wind", there is something that will soon be known by everyone.

"To throw it to the winds" means that someone is being reckless.

"Going before the wind" means that everything is proceeding smoothly.

A "windbag" is someone who talks all the time and says very little.

To "get wind" of something is to hear about something going on.

KITE CONTESTS

Arrange a kite flying tournament for the children in your classroom.

Post a set of rules noting the types of kites that can be flown, time involved getting each kite into the air, etc. Provide ribbons and awards for the winners of the selected categories.

You might want to ask students to make their own kites. Ribbons can be awarded for most original kite, easiest to fly, kite that flies the highest, etc.

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THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

Children are always fascinated by the flash of lightning and the roar of thunder. They often want to know the closeness of the lightning. Here is a way they can compute the distance.

Begin by explaining the difference between the speed of light and the speed of sound. Ask them to count the seconds between the lightning and the sound of thunder then use the following scale to estimate the distance.

Time Between Lightening/ Thunder	Distance of Lightening Flash
0 seconds	0 miles
5	1
10	2
15	3
20	4
25	5
30	6

...and so on.

RAINY DAY VOCABULARY

Ask students to draw or paint pictures of rainy day scenes and cover the class bulletin board with their creations. Next, cut out large, blue paper raindrops and label each one with a "rainy" vocabulary word such as drizzle, mist, shower, sprinkle, cloudburst, thunderstorm, moisture, monsoon, hurricane, etc. Give one raindrop to each student and ask them to research the word and write its definition on the raindrop. Pin the complete raindrops to the bulletin board for a visual shower of vocabulary words.

WEATHER DISASTERS

Discuss with your class the various types of weather disasters such as; tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, severe cold, drought, etc. Try some of these activities to help them understand these severe weather conditions.

- Using the previous year's almanac, find the dates and locations of major weather disasters. Mark the areas on the class map.
- Write your local weather bureau and ask them for information concerning the types of severe weather possible in your area.
- Ask a local radio or television weather reporter to visit your class. Have them explain how they gather and report weather news.
- Write to a relief agency (The Red Cross) to find out about how to prepare for weather emergencies.
- Find out about the role of the National Guard when a natural disaster occurs.



RAINY DAY SENSES

Discuss with your class the various things they see, hear, smell or feel on a rainy day. These can include wet grass, thunder, lightning, etc. Ask students to write poems about the many things discussed.