A SPARKATLAS PACK FOR LITTLE EXPLORERS

Weather Watcher

Spot clouds, catch the rain in a gauge you make yourself and keep a week of weather like a real weather watcher.



PLUVIOMETER

INSIDE THIS PACK

02 Grown-up guide: one minute to read
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YOU'LL NEED

- a clear plastic bottle or a straight-sided jar
- scissors and tape (for a grown-up)
- a few pebbles
- a stick and a ribbon or paper strip
- crayons

TIME

About 10 minutes a page, plus a week of looking up

Our first weather day

Date _____ Where we watched _____

Today's weather · Circle one

◯ sunny ◯ cloudy ◯ rainy ◯ windy

AGES Sprout 2–3 Seedling 3–5 Sapling 5–7

Each activity page shows its band.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Weather is the bit of nature children meet every single day. Looking up, guessing what comes next and checking a jar of rain turn small daily moments into real observing, counting and talking, the same habits scientists use.

Before You Start

A one-minute read for grown-ups.

How to use it (about 10 minutes a page)

1. **Start by looking up.**
Ask what the sky is doing today. Every child already has a weather opinion.

2. **Make the gauge first.**
Build it on day one, then use the weather week and the rain record for the next seven days.

3. **Guess before you check.**
"Will it rain tomorrow?" A guess makes checking the jar exciting. No guess is wrong.

4. **A minute a day is plenty.**
Look out of the window, tick a box, empty the gauge. Small and often works best.

Three ways to play

Sprout 2–3

Point and name: sun, cloud, rain. Tick a box, colour a jar and feel the wind on your hands.

Seedling 3–5

Match real clouds to the chart, tick the weather each day and count which weather won the week.

Sapling 5–7

Read the rain gauge in centimetres, compare the days and explain your guess for tomorrow.

Little safety notes

A grown-up cuts the bottle and tapes over the sharp edge. Never look straight at the sun. If you hear thunder, go indoors. Put the gauge where no one will trip on it, and empty it every day so little ones are never near standing water. Wash hands after.

Printing tips

Page 1 is the cover. To save ink, print pages 2 to 7 only. Print page 5 at 100% (actual size) so the centimetre strip is true to size. Every page works in black and white, on Letter or A4.

Wonder out loud together

- Where does rain come from?
- Why do clouds move?
- What would you wear on a snowy, windy day?
- How does the sky look just before it rains?

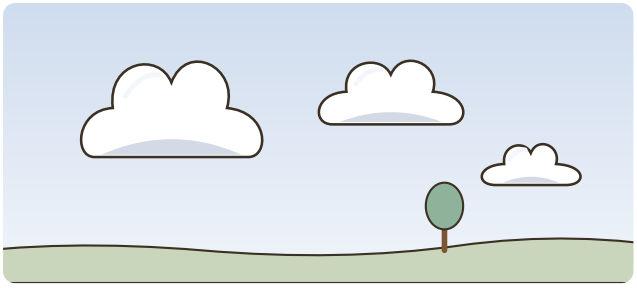
FOR GROWN-UPS

You don't need to know the cloud names yourself. Wondering together, and checking the gauge the next morning, matters more than the right answer.

Cloud Spotter

Look up! Which clouds can you see today?

Look at the sky with a grown-up. Tick each cloud when you spot it.

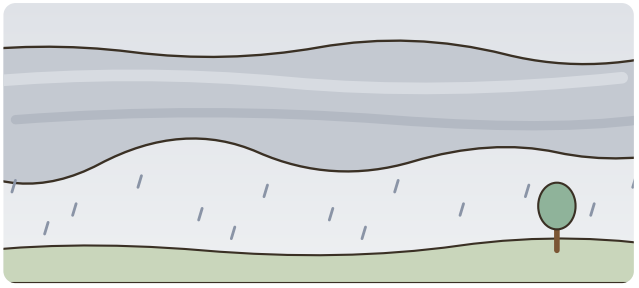


Cumulus

☐ I saw it

Latin for "heap"

Puffy and white, with flat bottoms. Often seen on fine days.

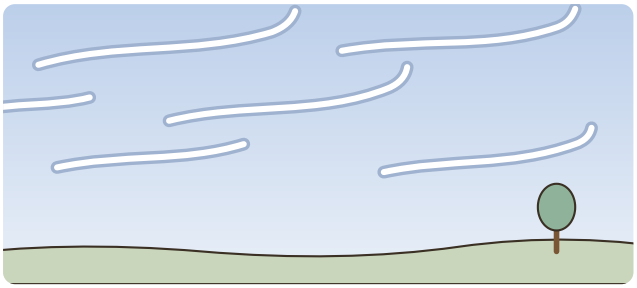


Stratus

☐ I saw it

Latin for "spread out"

A low grey blanket. It can bring drizzle. Fog is a cloud on the ground.

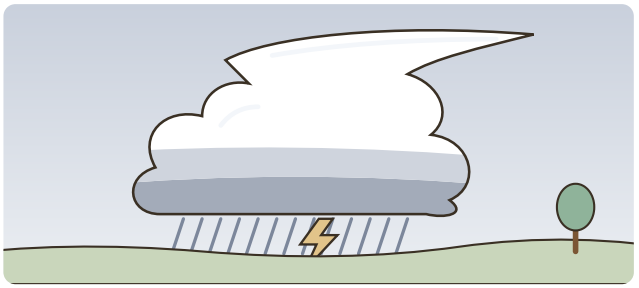


Cirrus

☐ I saw it

Latin for "curl of hair"

Thin, wispy streaks, very high up, made of tiny bits of ice.



Cumulonimbus

☐ I saw it

"heap" + "rain cloud"

A giant tower that brings thunder, lightning and heavy rain. Go indoors!

Cloud shapes

Lie back and look. Draw a cloud that looks like something.

It looked like: _____

✦ A checked fact

Clouds are made of tiny drops of water or bits of ice. In 1803 Luke Howard, a London pharmacist who loved the sky, gave them the Latin names we still use today.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Naming clouds turns looking up into noticing. You don't need every name: shapes, colours and "high or low?" are a great start.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Look for just two kinds: puffy clouds and a grey blanket. Point and say which.

Stretch: Check the sky in the morning and the afternoon. Did the clouds change? What came next?

My Weather Week

Look outside every day for one week.

Each day, tick the weather you see (more than one is fine). Then draw what you wore.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
sunny	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
cloudy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
rainy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
windy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
snowy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
foggy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
What I wore							

Count the week

Colour one square for each day you ticked.

☀ ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ ☁ ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

🌧 ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ 💨 ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

❄ ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ 🌫 ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Most days were: _____

Wonder together

- What will tomorrow be like? Why do you think so?
- Which weather do you like best?
- Was there a day with two kinds of weather?

FOR GROWN-UPS

A week of ticks becomes real data. Counting which weather won is early graphing, and guessing tomorrow is a first forecast.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Tick just sunny or rainy each day, and talk about what you wore.

Stretch: Before ticking, guess what the weather will be. How many guesses were right?

Make a Rain Gauge

Catch the rain and find out how much fell.

Make it with a grown-up. Then guess how much rain will fall this week.

How to make it

1. A grown-up cuts the top off a clear bottle and tapes over the sharp edge.
2. Turn the top upside down and sit it in the bottle like a funnel.
3. Cut out the centimetre strip and tape it on. Pour in water up to the 0 line.
4. Stand it outside in an open spot, away from trees and roofs. Pebbles around it keep it steady.
5. Check it at the same time every day, then empty it back to the 0 line.

My guess for this week

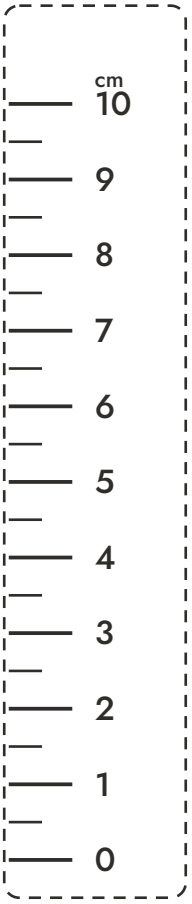
no rain **a little** **a lot**

A checked fact

Rain is measured by how deep it would be on flat ground. Weather stations use millimetres: 10 mm make 1 cm.

Centimetre strip

Cut along the dashed line.



Print this page at 100% so 1 cm is really 1 cm.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Making the tool is half the fun. Reading the level carefully each day builds patience and close looking, the heart of science.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

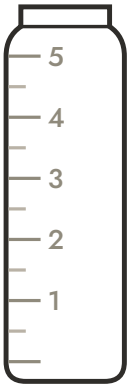
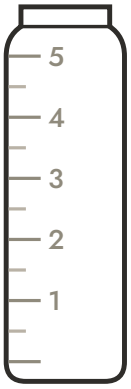
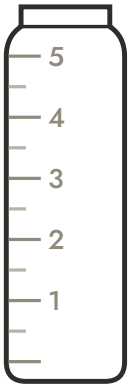
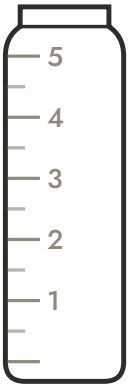
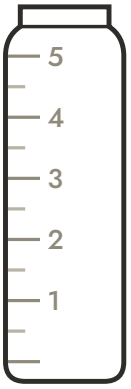
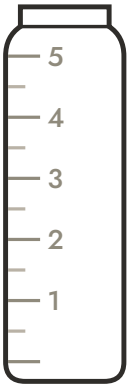
Easier: Use a straight-sided jar, no cutting. Just look: is there water today?

Stretch: Put a second gauge under a tree. Which one catches more rain? Why?

Rain Record

How much rain did your gauge catch?

Each day, colour the jar up to the water level. Write the number, then empty your gauge.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						
cm	cm	cm	cm	cm	cm	cm

Wettest day _____

Driest day _____

A snowy day?

Bring the gauge inside and let the snow melt. A jar full of snow melts into much less water, because snow is full of air.

Wonder together

- Which day was wettest? Did you guess it?
- Where do puddles go when the rain stops?
- What do plants and animals do when it rains?

FOR GROWN-UPS

Colouring the jars turns a week of rain into a bar graph your child made. Comparing tall and short bars is real data reading.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Skip the numbers. Colour a little or a lot, and talk about the puddles.

Stretch: Add up the week. Was it more or less than your guess on the rain gauge page?

Wind and Sky Journal

Feel the wind, then draw the sky.

Make a wind wand: tie a ribbon or paper strip to a stick and hold it up outside.

What does the ribbon do?

Tick one. Try again on another day.



☐ **Still**
It hangs down.



☐ **A breeze**
It flutters.



☐ **Windy!**
It flies straight out.

Draw the sky right now

Clouds, sun, rain, birds: anything you can see.

Use your senses

I can hear

I can feel

I can smell

My weather word: _____

✦ A checked fact

The earthy smell after rain has a name: petrichor. Sniff the air the next time it rains!

FOR GROWN-UPS

Feeling the wind and naming sounds and smells gives children weather words beyond sunny and rainy. A sentence you write down for them is early writing too.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Hold the wand up together and copy the ribbon with your arms.
Stretch: Test the wand in three places: a doorway, an open field, behind a wall. Where is it windiest?