

Lesson Title: What's the Weather Like in My Backyard?

Grade Levels: 3-4

Lesson Description

During this lesson, students will act as chief meteorologists for a local news station. As part of their job they will report the weather for a selected state on the nightly newscast. Google Earth will be used by students during their research and when presenting their forecast in front of the class.

Literature Connection

What's the Weather written by Melissa Stewart. This book is a great introductory resource for teachers to use when teaching about different types of weather. This short book includes text, pictures, and activities.

Concepts and skills: weather, physical systems

NCSS Standards

- Students will use appropriate resources, data sources, and geographic tools such as atlases, data bases, grid systems, charts, graphs, and maps to generate, manipulate, and interpret information.
- Students will describe and speculate about physical system changes, such as seasons, climate and weather, and water cycle.

Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- use technology to gather information for a weather forecast for a given area
- present an accurate weather forecast using Google Earth.

Google Earth Skills Needed

- ability to use the "fly to" section in the upper-left hand corner
- ability to manipulate the different layers associated with Google Earth
- ability to zoom in and out of locations

Lesson Procedures

1. Introduce the lesson by asking the class, "Who has traveled outside the state? What time of year were you in that state? What was the weather like during your visit?" Have a brief discussion about the different places and the weather.
2. Read the story *What's the Weather* written by Melissa Stewart. Before reading, tell students to listen for the different weather patterns. Say to them, "As we read the story, pay close attention to how the location of the state impacts the weather. See if you can find a relationship." After reading, ask students to share their responses to this question.
3. Open Google Earth and turn on the Weather layer in the side panel. Zoom into your city/town and have students use the information and observation to complete the worksheet: *What's the Weather Like in my Backyard?*
4. After discussing the completed worksheet, explain that they are going to be chief meteorologists and that it will be their job to report the weather forecast for a specific state

- on the nightly news. Explain that they are going to use Google Earth to gather data and when presenting their weather report. Show one or two television forecasts to give an idea of a weather forecast.
5. Explain the requirements of the weather report, as well as how the students will be assessed. Refer to the directions included on the handout: *Weather Report Directions*.
 6. Go over a basic Google Earth tutorial with the entire class in the computer lab.
 7. Provide assistance in the computer lab.
 8. Have students present their weather reports to the entire class.
 9. While listening to the presentations, students are to add weather data to a map of the United States to show the connection between the location of a place and its weather.
 10. Close the lesson with a classroom discussion that emphasizes the relationship between the location of a place and its weather.

Assessment

Students' completed *Meteorologists' Notebook* worksheet, weather report script, and weather reports will be used to assess fulfillment of the lesson's objectives.