



Seasons and Weather (Earth Science)

Year 1

End Points:

- We have four seasons; spring, summer, autumn and winter
- Our weather is warmer during the spring and summer and cooler during the autumn and winter
- Our days of sunlight are longest in the summer and shortest in the winter
- Know that tools (rain gauge, temperature and weather vane) are used to gather data about the weather
- Data is information that we can represent using graphs
- There are different types of cloud and that clouds can indicate the weather we are about to experience
- Recognise weather symbols used in weather forecasting and explain the importance of accurate forecasts
- Scientists that study the weather are called meteorologists
- Some weather can be dangerous, for example, hurricanes

In this unit, children will learn to recognise seasonal and daily changes in the weather. They will learn that our seasons are caused by the tilt of the Earth. This knowledge will be revisited in Year 2 Astronomy. Children will learn that meteorologists are scientists who study and predict the weather. They will learn that weather forecasts help people to prepare for different kinds of weather. They will study clouds and will find out about three different types of cloud and the weather they bring; cirrus, cumulus and stratus. Children will look at weather forecasts and the symbols used to indicate different types of weather. They will have the chance to create a short weather report with a partner. Over time, children will have the opportunity to record the weather and to notice seasonal changes. This will help them to develop conceptual understanding of the cyclical nature of change in the natural world. Knowledge from this unit will help children in many forthcoming science and geography units when they study habitats, living things and places around the world. As their knowledge of weather and climate progresses, they will study how weather and climate effects people's lives, such as in the Geography unit on Africa when they study the impact of locust swarms on farmers in East Africa. It would help to teach this unit alongside the Geography unit on the UK as when children look at weather forecasts, they will have an opportunity to draw upon knowledge of the UK.

Lesson Sequencing:

In lesson one, children will learn about the four seasons, why they occur and what the weather is like for us during these seasons. In the second lesson, knowledge of weather will be built upon by looking at three different tools that are used to measure different types of weather. The following lesson will look at weather data and how to represent it in a graph for comparison and so that we can understand weather better. In

the fourth lesson, children will learn about the three main types of cloud and their links to the weather. The following lesson will look at weather forecasts, the symbols used within them and how to interpret them. In the assessment lesson, children can write independently about types of weather or create a weather forecast.

Misconceptions:

- It only snows in winter.
- It is always sunny in summer.
- It rains most in winter.
- Flowers are only seen in spring and summer.
- Clouds always lead to rain.
- Dark clouds always lead to rain.
- Weather forecasts are 100% accurate.

Working Scientifically criteria met in this unit:

- asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways
- observing closely, using simple equipment
- performing simple tests
- identifying and classifying
- using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions
- gathering and recording data to help in answering questions