



# Weather Research

Standard Connection:  
 ELA.RI.PK4.1  
 ELA.W.PK4.5  
 M.MD.PK4.2  
 S.ES.PK4.2  
 PD.FM.PK4.5

**Enduring Understanding(s):**

- Weather affects living things.
- Gathering information helps us make decisions.

**Essential Question(s):**

- How do living things gather information that will be useful to them and others?

Materials	Vocabulary	Books
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>One Dark Night</i> or <i>Thunder Cake</i></li> <li>• <i>Gilberto and the Wind</i></li> <li>• non-fiction weather books (see Resource)</li> <li>• blank books</li> <li>• clipboards</li> <li>• paper</li> <li>• sticky notes</li> <li>• writing utensils</li> </ul>	<p><b>non-fiction:</b> based on facts</p> <p><b>researcher:</b> somebody who finds information about something</p> <p><b>information:</b> something you know</p> <p><b>meteorologist:</b> a weather expert</p> <p><b>weather:</b> changes in the atmosphere</p> <p><b>fact:</b> something that is true</p> <p><b>shelter:</b> a safe space</p> <p><b>expert:</b> somebody who knows a lot about something</p>	

Intro to Centers	
Preparation: <i>Set up materials</i>	
<p>"In <i>One Dark Night</i>, the cat and her kittens took <b>shelter</b> from a thunderstorm." (In <i>Thunder Cake</i>, the little girl and her grandmother were <b>sheltered</b> in the kitchen during the storm.)</p>	<p><b>Show illustrations.</b></p>
<p>In <i>Gilberto and the Wind</i>, Gilberto took <b>shelter</b> from the wind. How is the <b>weather</b> in these stories similar or different?"</p>	<p><b>Show illustrations.</b> <b>Children respond.</b></p>
<p>"Today in Library and Listening, you can <b>research</b> - find <b>information</b> - about different kinds of <b>weather</b> using these <b>non-fiction</b> resources. What do you notice?"</p>	<p><b>Show non-fiction weather books and resources (bookmarked websites, etc.).</b></p>
<p>"A <b>weather expert</b> is called a <b>meteorologist</b>. <b>Meteorologists research</b> and record <b>information</b> about the <b>weather</b> to share with other people."</p>	<p><b>Show weather book(s).</b></p>
<p>"You can be <b>meteorologists</b>. Use these blank books to record facts that you learn about the <b>weather</b>."</p>	<p><b>Show materials.</b></p>
<p>"How is <b>information</b> about the <b>weather</b> helpful?"</p>	<p><b>Children respond.</b></p>

### **During Centers:**

Encourage children to record their research using a variety of modalities (graphs, pictures, diagrams, etc.). Compare and contrast weather in non-fiction texts to depictions of weather in the Read Alouds. Encourage children to act out being a meteorologist in Dramatic Play.

### **Guiding Questions During Centers:**

- How does weather affect people (what they eat, what they wear, etc.)?
- How will you convey your research to other people?
- How is the weather in (*A Letter to Amy*) similar to or different from the weather in (*Gilberto and the Wind*)?
- How is being a meteorologist - an expert in weather - similar to or different from being an expert in \_\_\_\_\_?

### **Thinking and Feedback:**

Invite children to share their processes. Encourage children to describe the challenges they might have encountered.

### **Documentation:**

Take photographs of children during the activity and display them with captions of the children's words describing their processes.

### **Provocation:**

Encourage children to observe and record daily weather (graphs, charts, etc.). Invite a local meteorologist to visit the classroom. Encourage families to watch the weather report on the news with their children. Compare and contrast real weather with make-believe weather (*Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*).

### **Differentiation/Accommodation:**

For Intro to Centers, children with limited verbal skills can use a pre-programmed voice output device to answer questions about the story. (Keep in mind these will likely be closed-ended questions, as those are easiest to program into devices.) This can also be used to help children answer Guiding Questions. During Centers, provide a variety of writing materials. Picture cards with various weather terms may be helpful for comparing and contrasting.