

# USING THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER TO STUDY WEATHER AND CLIMATE

## Student Activity Sheet



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



### RAINED OUT ....

**Language Arts, Science Objective:**  
locating information, observing, communicating

Check today's weather. Read the forecast for today. Discuss weather terms (temperature, winds, precipitation).



Color the weather map color the map according to the first letter of each state. For example: all states that begin with the letter **C**, color blue; all states beginning with the letter **M**, color red; all states beginning with the **A**, color purple, etc.

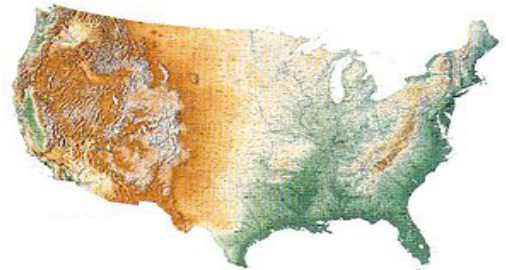
Compare and contrast weather conditions in various parts of the country. For example, the highs / lows in temperature, relative humidity, etc. Look at the weather map and choose the best place to take trip.

### MAP CONNECTIONS

**Science, Mathematics, Social Studies Objective:**  
identifying, estimating, interpreting maps

Color the map according to temperatures. For example, all the 80-degree temperatures would be green, the 70-degree ones yellow, and the 60-degree ones brown, and so on. Discuss temperatures. How warm does it feel at different temperatures?

Locate the temperature in Houston, for example. Subtract the temperature in Bismarck, multiply by the temperature in Boston, divide by the number of syllables in Memphis.



Which is heavier, warm air or cold air? Support the answer with everyday experiences. On a cold day for example, open the window and discover that the air settles on the floor, or note that when a cold room is heated, it is warmer near the ceiling than on the floor. Relate this concept to the movement of the cold and warm fronts shown on the weather map and record the information for one week.

Combine both mathematics and science by averaging the weather for several cities for five days. Find both the median and mode and analyze this data using a graph.

# Classroom Activity Sheet

**THIS CLASSROOM ACTIVITY SHEET ACCOMPANIES A FACT SHEET ON THE SAME WEATHER TOPIC. IT IS ONE OF A SERIES WHICH PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE TEACHING OF SELECTED TOPICS IN METEOROLOGY. INFORMATION FOR THE TEACHER IS GIVEN BELOW. THE STUDENT ACTIVITY ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE IS DESIGNED TO BE COPIED AND GIVEN TO EACH STUDENT.**

**FOR THE TEACHER:** Utilize the newspaper to study weather. Integrate other subject areas such as language arts and social studies with mathematics and science.

**BACKGROUND:** Past weather is reported in the newspaper and can be compared to the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) Archive.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH:** Collect newspapers for one month.

- calculate the average monthly, temperature for a location and compare to official average provided by NCDC.
- calculate the average monthly precipitation for another location.

**MATERIALS:** Newspapers, coloring pencils, and student activity sheet.

**MODIFICATIONS:** Contact the National Climatic Data Center, 151 Patton Avenue, Asheville, N.C. 28801, Tel: 828 - 271 - 4800. Request copies of temperature, or moisture for your location or go to [www.ncdc.noaa.gov](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov).

## **N. C. STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY AND GRADE LEVEL COMPETENCIES:**

Grade 7 - Competency Goal 3

The learner will make observations and build an understanding of weather concepts.

Objectives

3.06 Assess the use of technology in studying atmospheric phenomena and weather hazards:

- Satellites.
- Weather maps.
- Predicting.
- Recording.
- Communicating information about conditions.

