



An Iñupiat Weather Report

Grades:

6th – 8th

Duration:

2-3 hours of class time.

Time for students to prepare their reports: 1 week.

Objectives:

The objective of this lesson is for students to correctly use the Iñupiat language using weather related vocabulary, numbers, and days of the week. Students will prepare a weather forecast and present it as if they were on a television news program. The forecast must be entirely in the Iñupiat language.

Alaska State Content Standards:

English/Language Arts: A-1, A-3, A-4, A-6, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, E-1, E-4

World Languages: A-1, A-2, A-4, B-4, B-6, C-4

Materials:

Iñupiat dictionary/vocabulary books

Poster board, markers, etc...

Introduction:

Traditionally, Iñupiat people have learned a vast amount on local weather on the North Slope of Alaska. This knowledge came from observing the environment and passing down information to the next generation. Understanding the weather is essential when out hunting or traveling in the Arctic. Today many people get information on the weather from their local television, radio station, or from the Internet. In this activity, students play the part of an Iñupiat-speaking weather forecaster on the local television station. This activity is to increase Iñupiat language speaking and listening skills, and Iñupiat vocabulary on the weather.

Activity:

The class will be divided into pairs or groups of 3. Each group must prepare a weather forecast for their town. Collect local weather reports and forecasts from the newspaper, the internet, or the local television station. The students will take notes on:

Temperatures, the highs and lows

Cloud cover

Humidity

Sunrise and sunset times if applicable

Wind speed and direction

Any other information

The weather forecast for the next 3 days

Each student will write and present (in a group of 2 or 3 students) a weather report and weather forecast. The weather forecast must include:

1. A map - poster board size map using weather symbols.

2. A written script - this will be turned in and graded. The written script needs to be written in both English and Inupiat.
3. An oral presentation to the class.

Students are encouraged to be creative! Have fun with this!

The following should be included in the forecast:

1. Begin your presentation by introducing yourselves. You may include a small conversation with your partner(s). Remember, you are weather forecasters on television. Don't forget to play the part!
2. Today's weather - including Highs/lows, the record high/low for this date, sunrise/sunset times if applicable, weather conditions such as snow or clear, ice conditions etc.
3. Tomorrow's weather- highs/lows, etc.
4. The weather for the next 3 days (the forecast).

Each student should speak in Iñupiat for at least 1 - 2 minutes.
The total time for each forecast will be about 5 minutes.

It may be helpful for the students to watch a couple of television weather reports to get an idea about what is expected of them.

Other Related Classroom Activities:

1. Invite an Elder into your classroom to hear the weather reports and to speak about local weather.
2. Discuss with the students the importance of Elder/local knowledge on the weather. How did people survive back before there were modern conveniences?
3. Discuss how people used to predict weather before radio and TV. Invite an Elder to speak to the class about this.

Assessment: Students are graded on their script, map, and their oral presentation.

1. The script will be graded on correct use of vocabulary, and spelling.
2. The weather map will be graded according to detail and creativeness.
3. The oral presentation will be graded on following directions, participation, and creativeness. Elders may be invited into the classroom to hear the weather reports as a way of assessing the students of how well they did.

Read this interesting article by Paul Ongtooguk called [Aspects of Traditional Iñupiat Education](http://www.alaskool.org/native_ed/Pauls_doc2.htm):
http://www.alaskool.org/native_ed/Pauls_doc2.htm