

What's the Forecast?

Cross-Curricular Focus: Earth Science



The weather **forecast** predicts what the temperature and air conditions will be in the near **future**. There is a wide variety of types of weather. The weather can be sunny or stormy. It can be warm or cool. It also can be rainy, cloudy or windy. Sometimes, weather is severe. A blizzard, a thunderstorm or a hurricane may happen quickly. When we get information ahead of time, we can prepare for it. Being prepared helps us stay safe.

A meteorologist is a person whose job it is to forecast the weather. There are many tools available to help the meteorologist do his job. A common tool for getting an accurate **measurement** of the temperature is a thermometer. A high temperature probably means plenty of **sunshine** for **everyone**.

In rainy weather, a meteorologist uses a rain gauge. A rain gauge gives **numerical** data about how much rain is falling **outdoors**. After it rains, you may be able to see a **rainbow**. A rainbow appears when the sun comes out and there is still rain in the air.

Wind brings us weather. It blows clouds from one place to another. It is helpful to know which direction the wind is blowing. A wind vane provides this information. Knowing the wind direction helps a meteorologist know what weather is coming.

Weather forecasts are not always right. As our knowledge about weather gets better, the forecasts become more accurate.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What is a weather forecast?

2) What is a person whose job it is to forecast the weather called? _____

3) Name one weather tool and tell what it is used for.

4) What is your favorite kind of weather? Why?

5) Do you think the job of a meteorologist is difficult or easy? Explain your thinking.

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Name: **Key**

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

Actual wording of answers may vary.

1) What is a weather forecast?

a prediction of temperature and air

conditions in the near future

2) What is a person whose job it is to forecast the weather called? **meteorologist**

3) Name one weather tool and tell what it is used for.

either thermometer (air temperature), rain

gauge (amount of rain) or wind vane (wind direction)

4) What is your favorite kind of weather? Why?

student's choice

5) Do you think the job of a meteorologist is difficult or easy? Explain your thinking.

student's choice