

Title: Observing the Weather – Weather Observations		
Date:	Class Level: 4th – 6th Class	Subject: Geography
Strand: Weather, Climate & Atmosphere		Strand Unit: Weather observations
Objective: The aim of the lesson plan is for the children to learn about weather observations and the influence the ocean has on our weather.		
Developing Skills: • Geography Investigative skills including: • Questioning • Observing • Recording and communicating • Evaluating		
<p>Introduction / Discussion:</p> <p>Discussion: Discuss with the children how we observe weather. Find out: What do they know, What do they want to know, What have they learned about the weather and weather observations</p> <p>Create a word chart with the children discussing their observations about the different types of weather.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the weather words that they are familiar with using a coloured marker. • Introduce new words to explain the different types of weather. Add the new words that the children are not familiar with to the word chart in a different colour. 		
<p>Discussion using drawings, pictures and ICT:</p> <p>Discuss with the children what their observations of the different types of weather and how to describe the weather. The WEATHER can change in minutes, hour to hour, day to day, week to week, and season to season. Weather is described by the outside temperature (degrees Celsius and degrees Fahrenheit), precipitation (rain, hail or snow), humidity (vapour in the air – not actual droplets of water), and the winds (direction and strength).</p> <p>We often describe our daily and weekly weather using words or symbols to explain the temperature: cold, warm, hot, as well as type of weather: Dry weather is sunny; Wet weather includes: rain, sleet, showers, snow, which all range from being light to heavy; Cloud cover is described as cloudy, grey clouds, partial clouds, overcast; Snow can include descriptions of light to heavy sleet, hail, or snow; Wind is described by its direction it blows based on the points of a compass, such as the wind blowing northerly, southerly, easterly or westerly. The wind speed can be measured in knots, Beaufort, metres per second and kilometres per second.</p> <p>We also use words such as flooding, blizzards, heatwave and brightness to describe the effects of the weather. Seasonal weather changes are due to the Earth's rotation around the sun.</p> <p>Investigative & Creative Approach:</p> <p>By recording and communicating get children to observe and investigate the weather by completing the Observing the Weather Activity and Worksheets listed below. Pick and choose the activities and adapt to the appropriate age. The worksheets include:</p> <p>ACTIVITY: Observing the Weather in Ireland - Making weather badges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learn about weather symbols and create weather badges <p>ACTIVITY AND WORKSHEET: Observing the Weather Forecast in Ireland Collage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Matching the different types of symbols that are used to describe the weather in Ireland ○ Using an app or website investigate the weather forecast for today and the week ahead ○ Create a collage of a weather forecast <p>WORKSHEET: Observing the Ocean's influence on our Weather - The Gulf Stream's influence on our Weather</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learn about the Gulf Stream's influence on the Irish weather <p>ACTIVITY AND WORKSHEET: Observing the World's Weather and the Seasons Pictures and Cartoon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate and compare the weather around the world through pictures and cartoon drawing 		
<p>Talk and Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with the children the activities they enjoyed. Take photos of the artwork and share with friends on social media. Create additional games and a quiz for to test the family on their knowledge about observing weather. • Don't forget to tag #Explorers Education Programme 		
<p>Resources:</p> <p>Globe / World Map (print or online) • Online access to investigate the local weather etc • Worksheet and Activity sheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small pieces of card, glue, safety pins, A4 sheets of copy paper / art materials including recycled material etc • Useful websites: Met Éireann https://www.met.ie/ What do the weather symbols mean? https://www.met.ie/index.php/about-us/faq 		
<p>Assessment:</p> <p>Children: KWL chart (What I know, What I want to know, What I learned) • Observation and questioning: Mind Mapping – colour code what children know / new concepts • Examine learning outcomes before and after e.g. knowledge, understanding, skills • Evaluation: Reflect on learning experiences that lead to the outcomes e.g. attitudes, enjoyment, as well as motivation to learn about the subject.</p>		
<p>Linkage and Integration:</p> <p>Visual Arts – creative drawing creating awareness of line, shape, form; colour, introduce textiles / recycled items to develop texture • Geography – Weather and Climate • Science – Materials and Change • English – writing stories / poems.</p>		