

Weather Watchers

Purpose

Students will determine the temperature at different times of the day to gain practice reading a thermometer in Fahrenheit.

Materials

For the teacher: overhead transparency of one-inch grid paper, chalk, chalkboard

For each pair of students: outdoor thermometer, one-inch grid paper, copy of Black Line Master (BLM) *Keeping Track*

Activity

A. Introduction

1. Draw a model thermometer (similar to the student thermometers) on the chalkboard.
2. Show the students how to read the thermometer by counting by two at each marking.

B. Student Activity

1. Tell students they are going to be keeping track of the outdoor temperature three times a day for five days.
2. Hand out the BLM *Keeping Track* to each pair of students and review.
3. Distribute student thermometers and have each group decide where they can be placed safely outside.
4. On the first morning, have students check the temperature on their thermometer.
5. Have one student read the thermometer while the other records the temperature on the BLM. Have students switch roles the next time the thermometers are checked.
6. Read the thermometers two more times during the day, before lunch and before the end of the school day.
7. Repeat for the next five school days.

(continued)

**connecting
across the
curriculum**



Science

Keep track of other weather-related topics, such as cloudy or sunny skies and precipitation, in addition to temperature, on a classroom chart or calendar.

**INCORPORATING
TECHNOLOGY**



Use the Web site www.weather.com to check temperatures of cities in other parts of the world.

**Standards Link
2.1.12**

Activity (continued)

C. Follow-Up

1. At the end of the five days, use the overhead transparency to show students how to make a three-bar graph to represent the temperatures they have recorded.
2. Label the horizontal axis of the graph with the days of the week that you measured the temperature.
3. Label the vertical axis according to the time of year.
4. Label the temperatures in five-degree increments.
5. Have students use three different colors to represent the three different times of the day the temperature was read. Direct students to make a key on the graph to indicate what the colors represent (e.g., red = Beginning of School, etc.).
6. Display the graphs on a bulletin board labeled “Keeping Track.”

Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

During the activity, discuss the following questions with your students to gauge their understanding of the Standard Indicator:



What temperature is the thermometer showing?



How did you read the thermometer?

Names: _____



Keeping Track

Directions: With a partner, record the temperatures.

DAY OF WEEK	Beginning of School	Before Lunch	End of the Day

Keeping Track

Teacher Directions

Distribute the BLM *Keeping Track* to students. Have students write the days of the week that they track the temperature in the first column. Instruct students to record the temperature at three different times of day for five school days.

Answer Key

Not applicable.