

ELK Learning Academy
Foundations of the Natural World

Weather and Climate
Unit 2



Alpha Elementary
Wolf Cub

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Weather vs. Climate — What's the Difference?

Weather describes what the air is like outside at a specific time and place. It can change quickly from day to day or even hour to hour. Weather includes things like temperature, wind, clouds, and precipitation such as rain or snow.

Climate describes the average weather in a place over a long period of time. Instead of looking at daily changes, climate helps us understand what weather is usually like in a region. For example, deserts are usually hot and dry, while rainforests are warm and wet.

Scientists study both weather and climate to understand Earth and help people prepare for changes. Knowing the difference between weather and climate helps us better understand the world around us.

Multiple Choice

1. What does weather describe?
 - A. Long-term patterns
 - B. What the air is like right now
 - C. Only rain
 - D. Only temperature
2. What does climate describe?
 - A. Daily weather
 - B. Hourly changes
 - C. Average weather over time
 - D. Wind speed
3. Which is an example of weather?
 - A. A desert is dry
 - B. It is raining today
 - C. A rainforest is wet
 - D. Winters are cold
4. Which is an example of climate?
 - A. It is windy right now
 - B. It snowed yesterday
 - C. A place is usually hot and dry
 - D. It is cloudy today



Short Answer

5. How is weather different from climate?

6. Give one example of weather and one example of climate.

Weather or Climate? Label it!

Directions: Label each picture Weather or Climate

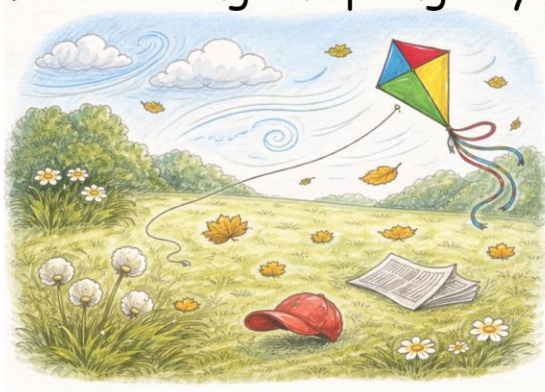
Penguins and seals in Antarctica



Rainy Day



Kite soaring on spring day



Desert Solitude



Tropical Rainforest



Sunny picnic



Weather Spinner Craft

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions:

Create a spinning wheel to show different types of weather.

Materials:

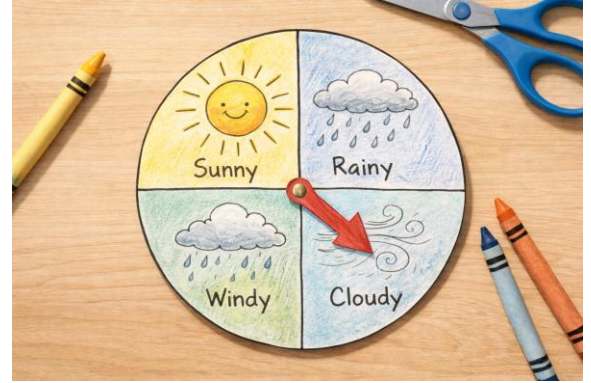
- Paper or paper plate
- Scissors
- Brass fastener (or paperclip)
- Crayons or markers

Step 1: Draw Your Weather Wheel

Draw a large circle. Divide it into 4 equal parts. Label each section:

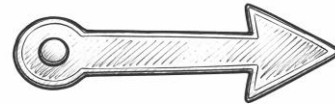
- Sunny
- Rainy
- Windy
- Cloudy

Draw a picture for each type of weather.



Step 2: Create the Spinner Arrow

Cut out the arrow shape shown to the right



Step 3: Put It Together

Use a brass fastener to attach the arrow to the center of the circle so it can spin.

Step 4: Play the Weather Game - Choose one option or both!

- Spin the arrow and act out the weather
- Spin the arrow and say what you would wear for that weather

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Discover the full Weather and Climate Unit by ELK Learning Academy

This activity is not included in the full unit

Answer Key – Weather & Climate Freebie

Multiple Choice

1. What does weather describe?
B. What the air is like right now
2. What does climate describe?
C. Average weather over time
3. Which is an example of weather?
B. It is raining today
4. Which is an example of climate?
C. A place is usually hot and dry

Short Answer

5. How is weather different from climate?
Weather describes what the air is like at a specific time, while climate describes the average weather in a place over a long period of time.
6. Give one example of weather and one example of climate.
Weather: It is raining today.
Climate: A desert is usually hot and dry.
(Answers may vary as long as one is short-term and one is long-term.)

Project – Weather Spinner Craft

Student answers will vary.

Check for:

- Circle divided into 4 equal sections
- Labeled: Sunny, Rainy, Windy, Cloudy
- Drawings that match each weather type
- Spinner attached correctly and able to move

Game Responses (Acceptable Answers)

Act it out:

Student demonstrates actions that match the weather (e.g., shivering for cold, pretending to hold an umbrella for rain)

Clothing responses:

- Sunny → light clothes, sunglasses
- Rainy → raincoat, boots
- Windy → jacket
- Cloudy → light jacket or regular clothes