

GRADE 3 SCIENCE

Weather and Climate

WEATHER WATCHERS

In this unit, your child will investigate and make predictions about the weather through careful observation of the clouds and wind. They will also learn to differentiate between weather and climate and use models to reveal global climate patterns.

We will observe important clues, such as the fact that water changes from a liquid to a gas (even without boiling!). You can continue to support your child's curiosity by pointing out water vapor whenever you see it rising off hot water in the kitchen or bath, or pointing out tiny droplets of water forming on a mirror, windows, or glasses. Engage their minds by asking, "Wow, why do you think this is happening?"



DO WE NEED AN UMBRELLA?

We will learn about differences between fair weather clouds and storm clouds, and the role of wind direction in determining whether a rain cloud will pass overhead. You can continue to support your child's curiosity by looking at clouds together and asking, "What kind of clouds do you think those are? I wonder if it will rain..." Ask your child if they'd like to show you their weather observations in their Science notebook.



**Hurricanes
are one
common
weather
hazard that
we
experience in
New Jersey.**

CLIMATE EXPLORERS

We will learn about the idea of 'climate'--that in every place on earth, the weather tends to act a certain way over the year. Your child will learn about the five basic climate zones: polar, temperate, mild, desert, and tropical. You can continue to support your child's curiosity by observing your local environment together to find evidence of our local climate. Have you or other family members ever lived in a different climate? Discuss how living in a different climate might affect peoples' lives. Will people have to dress differently? Does it change how people travel?

We will also explore natural hazards that are caused by weather conditions. We will act as engineers to design structures that can keep people safe during weather hazards. You can encourage your child to make personal connections at home! Discuss any wind-related hazards that may happen near where you live: Are there any tornadoes, hurricanes, or dust storms? How do people prepare for them?



READERS' CORNER

Here are some book suggestions to learn more about weather and climate available on [Scholastic Literacy Pro](#):

Clouds by Scholastic

Weather and Climate by Christine A. Caputo

El clima by Penelope Arlen

Weather Forecasting by Scholastic

Seasons by Scholastic

Tornadoes by Scholastic



Prepare•Empower•Inspire