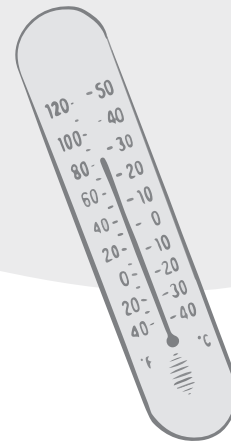


Keep Track of Temperature In Your Backyard

Grades: K - 8

Time: 5 - 10 mins daily



Lesson summary:

Keeping track of weather is a fun school or family activity.

What's the big idea? ??

- Students will learn to read a thermometer and to make observations about temperature.

Outcomes or purpose:

- Children will learn to read a thermometer and understand the numbers when it's hot or cold outside.

Teacher background:

When we want to measure length, we use a ruler. If we want to know what time it is, we use a clock. To measure temperature, we use a thermometer.

A thermometer measures the temperature of the air. It has numbers on it that tell us how hot or how cold it is. It also has a tube with a special liquid in it. The liquid is usually red and it moves up or down, depending on the temperature.

To read a thermometer, match the top of the red line with the number on the scale beside it. When you see a tall red line in the tube, this means that the temperature is very hot. If the red line is short, this means that the temperature is very cold.

There are two different scales for temperature: Celsius and Fahrenheit. In Canada, temperature is measured on the Celsius scale. In other countries like the United States, the Fahrenheit scale is used to measure temperature. You can read both temperature scales on some thermometers.

The freezing point of water on the Celsius scale is 0°. So when the red line is short and the temperature is below 0°C, that means it's cold outside! When the temperature is very cold, we can play outside in the snow as long as we're wearing a warm coat, snow pants, boots, mitts and a hat. But most of the time, we have to play inside when the temperature is really cold. Plants like trees have lost their leaves and are hibernating for the winter.

When the temperature is above 0°C, it feels warmer outside. A tall red line means that the temperature is high. When the temperature is very hot, we can play or go swimming outside and we wear shorts and a t-shirt. Trees, shrubs, vegetables and flowers are growing fast when it's hot outside.

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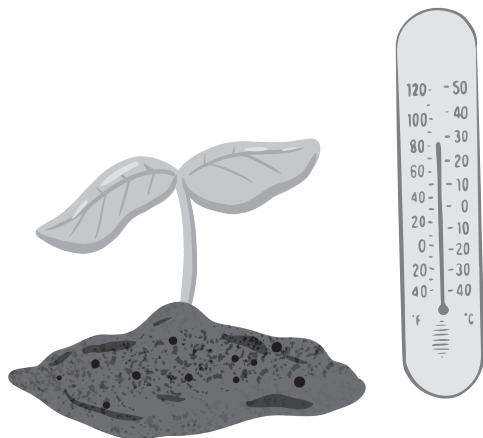
Materials needed:

- An outdoor thermometer
(If you don't have a thermometer, you can find the current temperature for where you live at:
https://weather.gc.ca/canada_e.html)
- Journal
- Pencil or Pen



Step by step instructions:

1. Hang your outdoor thermometer outside in a shady place so that the sun's rays do not touch it. This way, you are measuring the level of heat in the surrounding air, not the level of heat in the sun's rays! If possible, place your thermometer close to a window where you can easily see it.
2. Look at the thermometer. Is the line short or tall? Learn to read the thermometer by matching the top of the red line with the number on the Celsius scale.
3. Read the thermometer at the same time every day. Write down the date and put the temperature reading beside it. You could also record what clothes you are wearing and what you notice about plants growing outside.



Discussion questions

- How does the temperature outside affect us?
- What kinds of activities can we do outside and what do we wear to be comfortable?
- How does temperature affect plants?

Expand the learning:

- Try reading the temperature at three different times each day: morning, noon and after supper. What changes do you notice in the daily temperature?
- If you keep a temperature record for a whole year, you will be able to see what the extremes of temperature are where you live. The extremes are highest and lowest temperatures are over one year. When was the hottest day where you live? When was the coldest? What is happening in your garden on those days?
- Older children might like to graph temperatures over an entire week or month. What patterns do you see?