

Weather Facts and Experiments!

There are so many things that just paying attention to nature can tell us. For years we had no one to tell us what the weather was, or would be. People developed ways that they knew how to tell by observing the nature around them. Here are a few of those “old ways” I am sure that if you look it up you can find even more of them!



- 1) “Red sky at night is a sailors delight, red sky in the morning is a sailors warning:” If you see a red sky during sunset (west) it means that there a high-pressure system stirring the dust particles in the air. This means dry air is moving toward you, and also wind! (Sailors need that to keep going!). A red sky at Sunrise (East) means the dry air has passed by, and this brings rain or storms.
- 2) The louder the frogs, the more rain is coming
- 3) If the birds are flying high in the sky, dry weather is sticking around
- 4) If your dog is eating grass, it means that rain is coming!
- 5) At night if there is a ring around the moon, it means snow or rain is coming in the next 3 days
- 6) Many heavy foggy days during August means a hard winter with lots of snow
- 7) They say it will be a hard winter if the orange band in the middle of the woollybear caterpillar is narrower than usual
- 8) If you count the number of cricket chirps in 14 seconds, then add 40 you will get the approximate outside temperature
- 9) Observe the pinecones and the weather daily. When the weather is dry, pine cones stay open. When it’s about to rain, the pine cones close. Pine cones actually open and close based on the humidity to help seed dispersal
- 10) Wait for a lightning flash and then start a stopwatch. Stop when you hear the sound of thunder. For every five seconds, the storm is one mile away. Light travels faster than sound, which is why it takes longer to hear the thunder.

Experiments

1) Make some fog!

What you need: Glass jar, small strainer, water, ice cubes.

What to do: Fill the jar completely with hot water for about a minute. Pour out almost all the water, leaving about 1 inch in the jar. Place the strainer over the top of the jar. Place 3-4 ice cubes in the strainer. As the cold air from the ice cubes collides with the warm, moist air in the bottle, the water will condense and fog will form.



2) Make it rain

What you need: Clear plastic cup or glass jar, shaving cream, food coloring.

What to do: Fill the cup with water. Squirt shaving cream on top for the clouds. Explain that when clouds get really heavy with water, it rains! Then put blue food coloring on top of the cloud, and watch it “rain”.



3) Make a rainbow

What you need: Glass of water, sheet of white paper, sunlight.

What to do: Fill the glass all the way to the top with water. Put the glass of water on a table so that it is half on the table and half off the table (make sure that the glass doesn’t fall!) Then, make sure that the sun can shine through the glass of water. Next, place the white sheet of paper on the floor. Adjust the piece of paper and the glass of water until a rainbow forms on the paper. Light is made up of many colors when it passes through the water, it is broken up into all of the colors seen in a rainbow.

