Lesson Plan

And Now for the Weather!
Instruction Sheet and Guidance

UK esero

For 4 to 5 year olds

Context

The weather on Mars is much more extreme than on Earth. Mars has very few clouds and it does not rain, so although very cold, it is sunny, except when it experiences strong winds and huge dust storms. There are some similarities however, for both have seasons and polar ice caps.

In this activity the children name different types of weather and complete a class weather chart using symbols. They choose appropriate materials to construct a simple wind gauge and decorate it using their imagination. Finally they test their models and explain how they work. They enjoy a video animation of a trip to Mars.

Mars' Whirling Dust Devil

Curriculum links

Understanding the world:

- Identify and name different types of weather

Expressive arts and design:

- Choose suitable materials and construct a simple wind gauge
- Explain how the model works

Resources

- Weather chart and symbols
- Selection of:
  - Feathers
  - Streamers
  - Paper
  - Disposable cups
  - Paper plates
  - Glue
  - Battery operated fans or hand fans
  - Straws
  - Wooden lolly sticks or thin dowels
  - Sticky tape
  - Wind chimes

Lesson starter

Read the story 'The Wind Blew' by Pat Hutchens (or a similar windy weather themed story).

- What types of weather can the children name?
- What is the weather like today?
- Identify some weather symbols and add the appropriate symbol to the chart. How can we find out what the weather is like on other planets far away in space?
- Show the telescope. Does anyone know what it is for?

Scientists use big telescopes to look at planets far away in space. Scientists have found out that one of the planets, Mars, is often very windy.

The Wind Blew

By Pat Hutchens

UK SPACE AGENCY

exomars

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Main activity

Show the variety of materials available.

- Which would move in the wind most easily? Why?

Demonstrate the model wind tester, made by decorating a disposable cup or paper plate with strips of paper streamers glued around the edge, and attaching a stick handle. Demonstrate how blowing gently makes the paper strips move. Show the children the variety of materials available.

- Which would move in the wind most easily?

Explain that they are going to design and make a wind tester to measure the strength of the wind. The children plan, make and then test the effectiveness of the wind measurers by blowing the streamers with small hand held fans.

- Can your wind tester show how windy it is today?

Investigate!

Plenary

- Did they enjoy making and trying out their wind testers?
- Did they work well?
- What happened when the wind blew?
- What did the wind feel like? Think of some words to describe the wind.

Watch ESA's animation Paxi goes to Mars:

www.esa.int/spaceinvideos/Videos/2016/05/Paxi_-_The_Red_Planet

Further activities

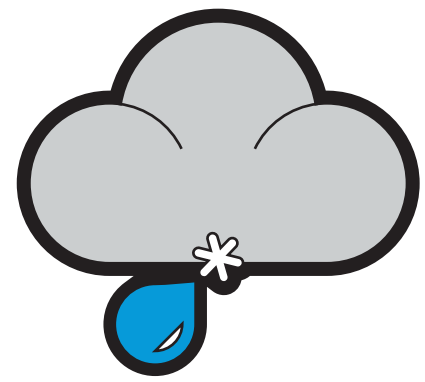
- Investigate a variety of materials. Sort into two groups – can or can't be moved by the wind; by blowing through a straw
- Set up a windy day washing line. Attach a variety of materials and watch them blow in the breeze
- Blow bubbles, run with kites or paper of different sizes, drop parachutes, fly paper planes

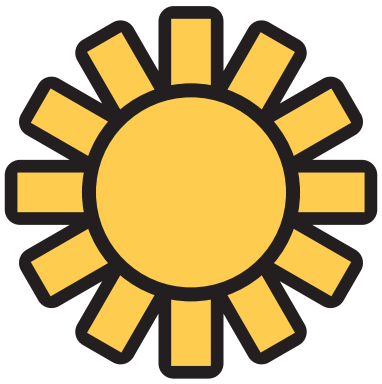
STEM Vocabulary

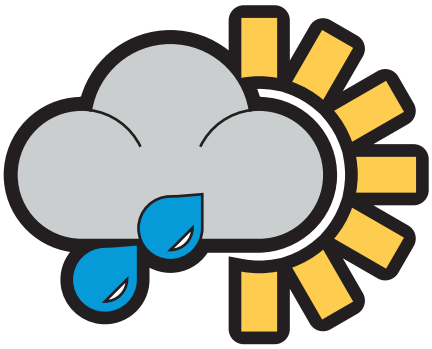
Weather	Sunny	Mars
Windy	Rainy	Telescope

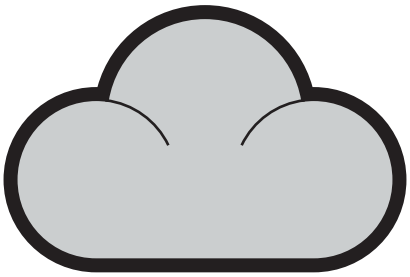
Activity Sheet 1

And Now for the Weather!
Weather Symbols









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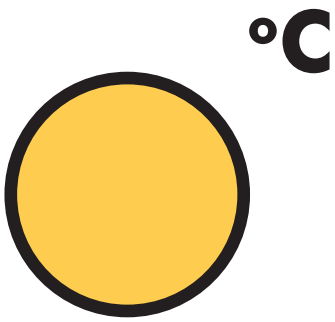
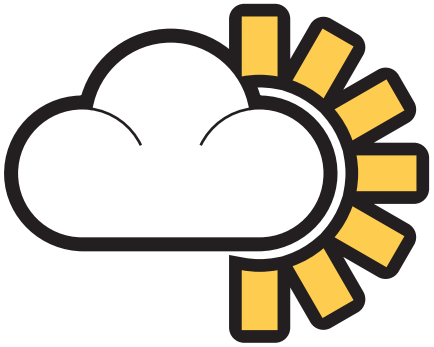
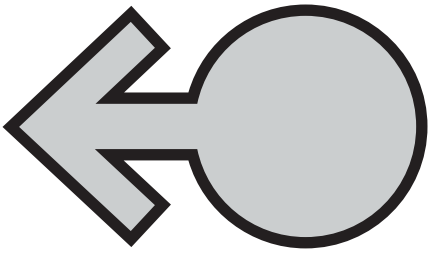


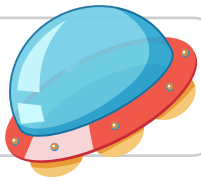




Activity Sheet 1a

And Now for the Weather!
Weather Game

Cut out and stick a different weather word (or symbol) on each face of a large dice.
Stick a different movement word on each face of a second dice.



run	windy
hop	rainy
skip	cloudy
walk	sunny
jump	snowy
twirl	partly cloudy
roll	icy
fly	foggy