

Focus on: Weather

This lesson is meant to support the unit on Earth Systems, Structures, Processes. It can be done during the unit to reinforce lessons or as a follow up to the unit to increase the retention of information. It is helpful if your school garden has common weather instruments. If your school garden does not have weather instruments, consider looking into adding them to your garden.

Clarifying Objectives:

5.E.1.1 Compare daily and seasonal changes in weather conditions (including wind speed and direction, precipitation, and temperature) and patterns.

5.E.1.2 Predict upcoming weather events from weather data collected through observations and measurement.

5.E.1.3 Explain how global patterns such as the jet stream and water currents influence local weather in measurable terms such as temperature, wind direction and speed, and precipitation.

Key Vocabulary:

Definitions can be found at <http://learnersdictionary.com>

- Compare
- Seasonal
- Weather Conditions
- Wind Speed
- Wind Direction
- Precipitation
- Temperature
- Patterns
- Predict
- Weather Events
- Data
- Observations
- Measurement
- Global Patterns
- Jet Stream
- Water Currents

Focus Question:

Why is weather important to gardening or farming?

Materials:

School Garden
Weather Instruments located in the garden

Activities:

1. Review the Focus Question: Why is weather important to gardening or farming?
2. Brainstorm possible answers.
3. The sweet potato is the official state vegetable of North Carolina. It is important to our state's economy as North Carolina is the largest producer of sweet potatoes in the United States.
4. Review the Growing Fact Sheet on Sweet Potatoes: <http://bonnieplants.com/growing/growing-sweet-potatoes/>
5. Based on the fact sheet, what impact does weather have on the success of growing sweet potatoes.
6. Visit the garden to collect data on the current climate for your school.
7. If we planted sweet potatoes today, would we be able to produce a large harvest of sweet potatoes? Why?
8. Predict what the weather will be like 6 months from now. You can research past weather data to help you make your predictions. 6 months from now will the weather be conducive to growing sweet potatoes? Why?
9. After reading the information on growing sweet potatoes, what time of year would be best for planting sweet potatoes? Why?
10. Based on your weather investigation with sweet potatoes answer the focus question: Why is weather important to gardening or farming?