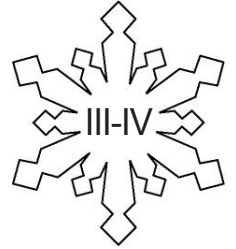


Weather Timeline

Levels



Grades 5-8

Overview:

In this activity, students interview Elders and use local news sources and the Internet to create a weather timeline for their community. (*Note: This lesson will require two periods of class time.*)

Objectives:

The student will:

- interview an Elder;
- research using the Internet;
- research using local newspapers; and
- create a timeline that shows weather events.

GLEs Addressed:

Science

- [5-8] SA1.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the processes of science by asking questions, predicting, observing, describing, measuring, classifying, making generalizations, inferring, and communicating.
- [7] SF1.1-3.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the dynamic relationships among scientific, cultural, social, and personal perspectives by investigating the basis of local knowledge (e.g., describing and predicting weather) and sharing that information.

Materials:

- OVERHEAD: "Weather Timeline for Bedfordshire, England"
(Download from the Classroom Lessons page at <http://www.ArcticClimateModeling.org>)
- STUDENT WORKSHEET: "Weather Timeline"

Activity Preparation:

In the activity, students will be divided into groups of 3 and assigned a period of history. Assign group members and their periods of history in order to assure that the periods of history form one continuous timeline for use in step 8.

Activity Procedure:

1. Ask students to define the word timeline.
2. Display OVERHEAD: "Weather Timeline for Bedfordshire, England." Discuss how community members and scientists use timelines like this to develop plans for disaster prevention and preparation.
3. Ask students how they might develop a timeline like the one displayed in the transparency. Make a list of possible sources of weather information. Make sure students include the Internet, newspapers, and local residents.
4. Divide students into groups of 3. Hand out the STUDENT WORKSHEET: "Weather Timeline." Explain each group will be responsible for investigating one decade (10 years) of time using the Internet, local newspapers, and by interviewing Elders and other community residents, and developing a timeline for the assigned period.
5. Instruct students to complete questions 1 through 5 on the worksheet.

6. Discuss students' answers to questions 3 through 5 as a class. Discuss strategies and keywords for researching.
7. Assign question 6 for homework. On the next day, provide students with time to complete question 7.
8. As a class compile all the timelines into one for class/school display.

Answers to Student Questions:

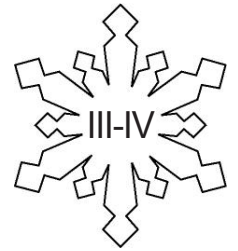
Answers will vary.

Name: _____

Weather Timeline

Student Worksheet

Levels



1. Group members: _____ , _____
2. Time period assigned: _____
3. Make a list of at least 4 questions to ask a local Elder or community resident regarding the weather during the assigned period of history.

4. Make a list of keywords to use in researching the assigned time period on the Internet.

5. Make a list of local newspapers, newsletters, magazines, etc., that might list local weather information.

6. Assign each group member to a specific research source (Elder, news sources, Internet). After completing the research, attach notes and printouts or copies to this worksheet.

7. On a blank sheet of paper, use your compiled research to develop a timeline for the assigned period of history. Attach to this worksheet.

Weather Timeline for Bedfordshire, England

Overhead (page 1 of 2)

1895

The Luton Reporter (30th March) gave details of a disruptive gale in Barton:
“During the gale which passed over this village on Sunday no casualties occurred to man or beast. The most serious damage that was done occurred at the Wesleyan Chapel to a stained glass window, which was blown out. A tiled roof was blown off a shed and several thatched buildings suffered more or less severely, while chimney tops, ridge tiles and slates were carried into the street by the fury of the storm. Several trees were blown down.”

1896

The Bedfordshire Times (8th May) reported, “There was a fine display of this phenomenon (the Aurora Borealis) on Saturday night, and on Sunday night it was also visible though less brilliant.”

1907

Leighton Buzzard floods and great swathes of the countryside disappear under water. The river was reported to “have the appearance of an open sea” (Bedford Mercury, 4th January)

1907

Sandy floods and the town is cut off from many of the surrounding areas

1947

The River Ouse in Bedford rises 6 ft above the normal level at the Town Bridge causing floods through much of the town

1950

On May 21st 1950 a tornado and its two subsidiaries caused devastation over south-eastern and eastern England. Damage was heaviest in the Buckinghamshire town of Linslade where some 50 houses were un-roofed and a brick-built bakery demolished. Old Road and New Road were particularly effected. In Bedford, Harrowden Road was struck and tiles were lifted from the roofs, apple trees uprooted and garden walls overturned. The maximum force of the storm was felt at Fenlake where large willow trees were carried across the River Ouse causing it to become blocked.

1963

In the third week of January there was a blizzard that completely cut off Leighton and Linslade. This was followed by a frost when temperatures fell to eleven degrees below zero fahrenheit making Leighton the coldest place in Britain (Leighton Buzzard Observer, 15th November 2005, p19).

1966

During a thunderstorm over Stevington a meteorite hits in a farmer's field

Weather Timeline for Bedfordshire, England

Overhead (page 2 of 2)

1968

A very wet summer caused water logging in the fields making life difficult for the farmers and on the 15th of September severe flooding occurred in many parts of the county. Police closed South Street, Leighton Buzzard when it was feared that the supports of the bridge were being washed away (Beds. Mag. Vol. 11, no. 87, p.292).

1968

A miniature whirlwind struck Harold on the 1st September causing many slates and lengths of guttering to litter the streets (Beds. Mag. Vol. 11, no. 87, p.292).

1976

Storms with wind speed of up to 96 mph rip through Bedfordshire. Many roads are closed and at Toddington the storm destroys two large sections of the parapet of St. George's Church

1980

A violent storm caused havoc in the county. Barton was worst hit with water nearly 2 feet deep in places. Residents in Manor Road and Stuart Road were flooded.

1981

The River Ouse freezes over in Bedford for the first time since 1963.

1987

In one of the worst gales recorded, severe storms hit Bedfordshire leaving many people without power. High winds destroyed many trees.

1998

The Easter Floods. The River Ouse in Bedford burst its banks on the afternoon of Saturday 11th April and swelled to proportions not seen since 1947. Many homes in the North of Bedfordshire and Bedford were flooded and more than 500 homes in Bedford were plunged into darkness as electricity supplies went down.