

GRADE 7 · SLIDE DECK

Reading the Sky: A 7th Grade Meteorology Sample



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What we'll cover today

DAY 01

Reading the Sky: Cloud
Types & Storm
Prediction

WEATHER FUNDAMENTALS

METEOROLOGY · WEATHER FUNDAMENTALS

01

Reading the Sky: Cloud Types & Storm Prediction

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end you'll...

- Classify the four main cloud families (cirrus, cumulus, stratus, nimbus).
- Predict short-term weather from cloud observations.
- Interpret a basic surface weather map, including fronts and pressure zones.
- Understand how meteorologists use satellite and radar data.



WORDS TO KNOW

Vocabulary

CIRRUS

High, thin, wispy clouds made of ice crystals — often a sign of a change in weather within 24 hours.

CUMULUS

Puffy, cotton-ball clouds, usually indicating fair weather.

STRATUS

Low, gray, blanket-like clouds that often produce drizzle.

NIMBUS

A cloud that produces precipitation — often combined as cumulonimbus (thunderstorms) or nimbostratus (steady rain).



HANDS-ON

Let's do it!

1

Cloud Log (7 Days)

Students photograph the sky at the same time each day for a week, classify each cloud type they see, and correlate to the actual weather that day. A great habit-building science ro

2

Build a Barometer

Construct a simple barometer using a jar, balloon, straw, and rubber band. Track pressure changes for 3 days and predict weather shifts. Students learn that falling pressure = stor

3

Forecast Broadcast

Students play meteorologist, present a 60-second forecast using their own cloud observations plus a printed weather map.

CHECK YOUR THINKING

Practice questions

Q1

Which cloud family means 'rain-bearing'?

Q2

You see tall, tower-like cumulus clouds growing quickly on a hot afternoon. What weather might follow within an hour?

Q3

On a weather map, what does a line of blue triangles represent?

Q4

FOR THE EDUCATOR

Teacher Answer Key

Organized by day and activity. Every numbered question is matched with its expected answer for quick classroom reference.

Reading the Sky: Cloud Types & Storm Prediction

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1 Which cloud family means 'rain-bearing'?

A. Nimbus.

Q2 You see tall, tower-like cumulus clouds growing quickly on a hot afternoon. What weather might follow within an hour?

A. A thunderstorm — those are cumulonimbus clouds and they often produce lightning, heavy rain, and gusty winds.

Q3 On a weather map, what does a line of blue triangles represent?

A. A cold front, moving in the direction the triangles point.

Q4 What does a falling barometric pressure usually indicate?

A. A storm or unsettled weather is approaching.

Q5 Why do meteorologists issue a 'watch' before a 'warning'?

A. A watch means conditions are favorable for severe weather — be prepared. A warning means severe weather is happening or imminent — take action now.

Great work, scientist!

Thanks for exploring Reading the Sky: A 7th Grade Meteorology
Sample

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