



Science Chunks: Weather Sample Packet

Teach your students the basics of weather in bite-sized chunks. The following sample packet includes most of the first lesson of the *Science Chunks: Weather* digital unit study. You will see:

- ✓ The Introduction (*beginning on p. 4*)
- ✓ The Lesson (*beginning on p. 8*)
- ✓ The Lapbooking Templates (*beginning on p. 11*)
- ✓ The Notebooking Templates (*beginning on p. 14*)

If you have questions about what you see, please let us know by emailing support@elementalscience.com. To get started, head to:

🔗 <https://elementalscience.com/products/science-chunks-weather-unit>

A Peek Inside a Science Chunks Unit

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1. Lesson Topic

Focus on one main idea throughout the week. You will learn about these ideas by reading from visually appealing encyclopedias, recording what the students learned, and doing coordinating hands-on science activities.

2. Information Assignments

Find two reading options—one for younger students, one for older students, plus optional library books.

3. Notebooking Assignments

Record what your students have learned with either a lapbook or a notebook. The directions for these options are included for your convenience in this section along with the vocabulary the lesson will cover.

4. Hands-on Science Assignments

Get the directions for coordinating hands-on science activities that relate to the week's topic.

5. Lesson To-Do Lists

See what is essential for you to do each week and what is optional. You can check these off as you work through the lesson so that you will know when you are ready to move on to the next one.

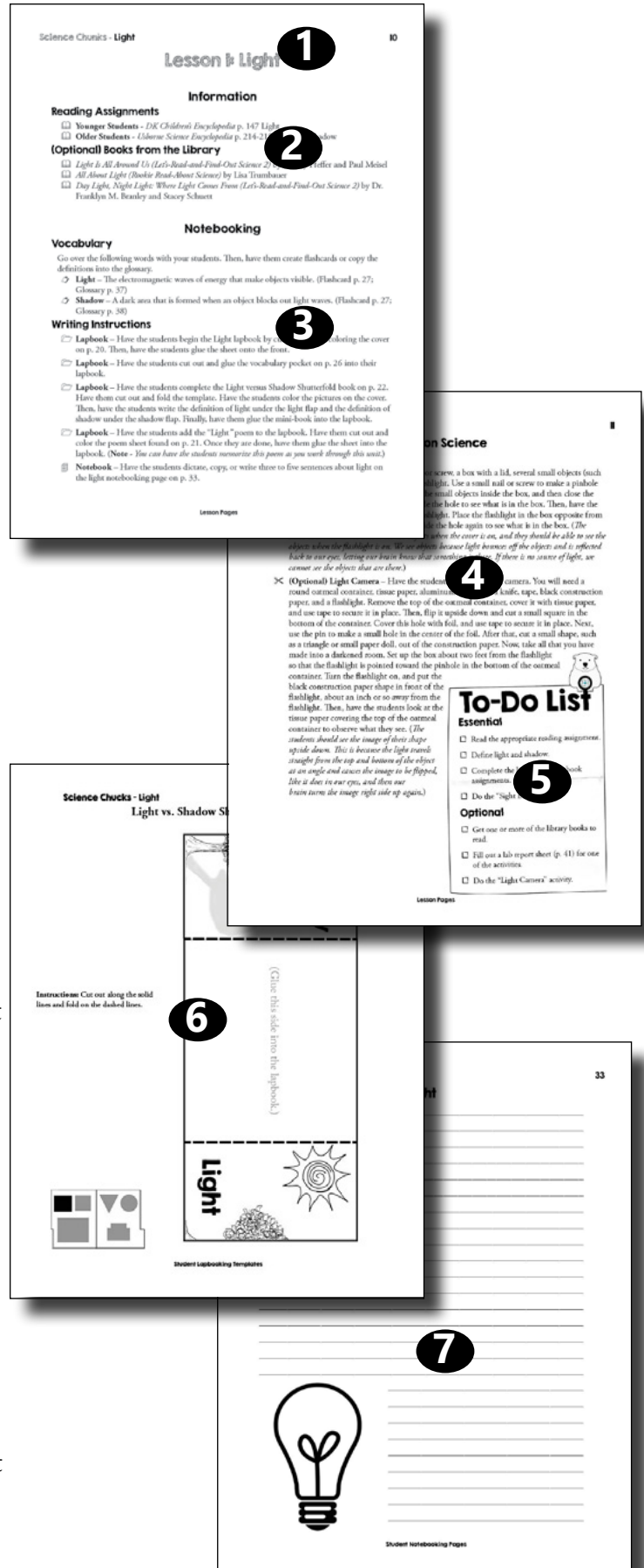
6. Lapbook Templates

Get all the information you need to create a lapbook on the subject.

7. Notebook Templates

Have all the sheets you need to create a notebook on the subject, including a glossary for the vocabulary terms.

In the appendix you will find a blank activity sheet, a blank lab report sheet, and a review sheet (or quiz).



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Unit Introduction

Science Chunks - Weather is a unique and versatile unit study that leads you through a survey of weather. It is designed to be a gentle approach to homeschool science based on the Unit Study method suggested in *Success in Science: A Manual for Excellence in Science Education* by Bradley and Paige Hudson. This study can be used as a stand-alone unit for elementary science.

What Is Included in This Unit

Science Chunks - Weather includes the three keys to teaching science. With each lesson you will be doing the following:

- ✓ Listening to (or reading) **scientific information** from visually appealing encyclopedias
- ✓ Dictating (or writing down) what the students have learned and seen using **lapbooking or notebooking**
- ✓ Watching (and doing) **hands-on science** through a variety of science activities

Here is how this works for a lesson.

Section 1 - Information

The elementary student is an empty bucket waiting to be filled with information, and science-oriented books are a wonderful way to do that. These books can include age-appropriate children's science encyclopedias, living books for science, and/or children's nonfiction science books.

In this program, the reading assignments and additional books scheduled in the lesson fulfill this component. The reading assignments are broken for you into two levels: younger students (1st to 3rd grade) and older students (4th to 6th grade).

Our idea is that you will read these selections with your students, pausing to ask questions or discussing the information once you are done reading.

Section 2 - Notebooking

The purpose of the notebooking component for elementary science education is to verify that the students have placed at least one piece of information into their knowledge bucket. You can use notebooking sheets, lapbooks, and/or vocabulary words to fulfill this requirement.

In this program, we have included two writing options, a lapbook and a notebook, for you to use with your students. In the lapbook section, you will find all of the templates and pictures you will need to complete a lapbook on weather. In the notebook section, you will find all the pages you need to create a simple notebook on weather, including notebooking sheets and a glossary.



Section 3 - Hands-on Science

Scientific demonstrations and observations are meant to spark students' enthusiasm for learning science, to work on their observation skills, and to demonstrate the principles of science for them. This component of elementary science education can contain scientific demonstrations, hands-on projects, and/or nature studies.

In this program, the coordinating activities at the end of each lesson fulfill this section of elementary science instruction. If you would like to record what you have done, you can use one of the templates in the appendix pp. 48-49.

What You Need in Addition to This Guide

Books Scheduled

The following books are what we used to plan the reading assignments for this unit:

-  **Younger Students** - *DK Children's Encyclopedia*
-  **Older Students** - *Kingfisher Science Encyclopedia*

However, you could certainly use the encyclopedias you already have on hand or books from the library. Simply look up the topic assigned for the day, read about it, and complete the section in your lapbook.

You will need also simple craft supplies and other science materials—see a complete list of essential items on p. 9.

How This Unit Works

We have included a to-do list with each lesson to give you an idea of what is essential and what is optional. There are several ways you can schedule this unit. Here is a quick look at a few of the options.

Possible Schedules for Your Week

- **One Day** – You can set aside about an hour to an hour and a half each week to complete all the essential tasks in one day.
- **Two Days** – You can set aside about 30 to 40 minutes twice a week to complete all the essential tasks, plus a few more, in two days. On the first day, you can complete the reading assignments and either the lapbook or notebook assignments. On the second day, you can complete the coordinating activity and the vocabulary assignments as well as read any library books.
- **Three Days** – You can set aside about 30 minutes three times a week to complete all the essential tasks, plus a few more, in three days. On the first day, you can complete the reading assignments and either the lapbook or notebook assignments. On the second day, you can complete the coordinating activity and write a lab report using one of the templates. On the third day, you can do the vocabulary assignments as well as read any library books.

- **Four Days** – You can set aside about 20 to 30 minutes four times a week to complete all the essential tasks, plus a few more, in four days. On the first day, you can complete the reading assignments and either the lapbook or notebook assignments. On the second day, you can complete the coordinating activity and write a lab report. On the third day, you can do the vocabulary assignments as well as read any library books. On the fourth day, you can do the optional coordinating activity as well as read any library books.

If you choose to complete one lesson per week, this unit will take you six weeks to complete.

Final Thoughts

Read Further

If you would like to read more about the philosophy behind the Science Chunks series, check out *Success in Science: A Manual for Excellence in Science Education* and the following articles from our website.

- **The Three Keys to Teaching Science** – This article shares the three keys to teaching science, including a free session that walks you through what each key can look like.
🔗 <https://elementalscience.com/blogs/news/3-keys>
- **The Basics of Notebooking** – This article details the basic components of notebooking along with how a few suggestions on what notebooking can look like.
🔗 <https://elementalscience.com/blogs/news/what-is-notebooking>
- **Lapbooking versus Notebooking** – This article takes a look at the differences between lapbooking and notebooking.
🔗 <https://elementalscience.com/blogs/news/lapbook-or-notebook>
- **Scientific Demonstrations versus Experiments** – This article explains the difference between scientific demonstrations and experiments along with when and how to employ these methods.
🔗 <https://elementalscience.com/blogs/news/89905795-scientific-demonstrations-or-experiments>

Last Words

As the author and publisher of this curriculum, I encourage you to contact me with any questions or problems that you might have concerning *Science Chunks - Weather* by emailing us at support@elementalscience.com. I, or a member of our team, will be more than happy to answer them as soon as we can. I hope that you will enjoy creating memories using *Science Chunks - Weather*!

~ Paige Hudson

Materials List

Lapbook Materials

You will need the following materials to complete the lapbook:

- ✂ 2 Sheets of 8 ½" by 11" card stock OR 1 file folder
- ✂ Colored pencils or crayons
- ✂ Markers for decorating the cover
- ✂ Glue stick
- ✂ Scissors
- ✂ Stapler

Notebook Materials

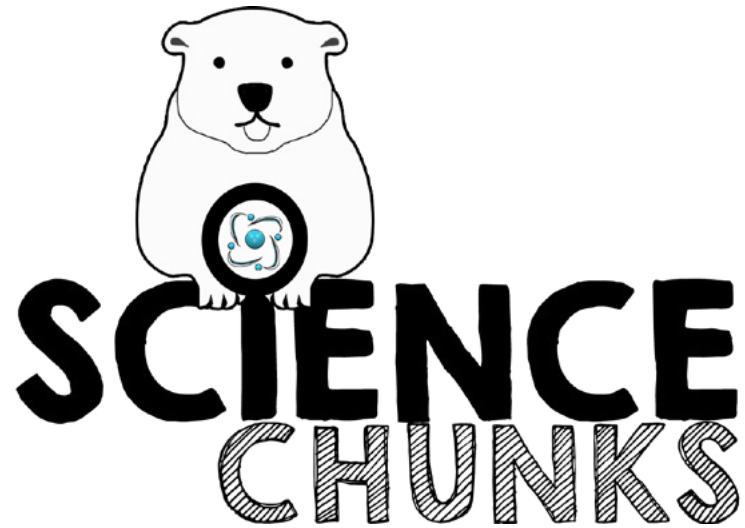
You will need the following materials to assemble the notebook:

- ✂ Hole punch and 3 brad fasteners or string OR
- ✂ Staples

Coordinating Activity Materials

You will need the following materials to complete the essential coordinating activities:

- ✂ **Lesson 1:** Plastic water bottle, Duct tape, Permanent marking pen, Small marbles or rocks, Ruler
- ✂ **Lesson 2:** Lump of air dry clay, Several brown pipe cleaners, Felt sheets of either green, red, orange, or yellow
- ✂ **Lesson 3:** Paper or cotton ball, Straw for each of the students
- ✂ **Lesson 4:** Glass jar or cup, Plastic wrap, Rubber band, Ice cubes
- ✂ **Lesson 5:** Clear glass, Shaving cream, Blue food coloring, Warm water
- ✂ **Lesson 6:** Shaving cream, Cornstarch





Lessons







Lesson I: The Sun and Atmosphere

Information

Reading Assignments

-  **Younger Students** - *DK Children's Encyclopedia* p. 33 Atmosphere, p. 247 Sun
-  **Older Students** - *Kingfisher Science Encyclopedia* pp. 10-11 Earth's Atmosphere, pp. 394-395 The Sun


(Optional) Books from the Library

-  *The Sun: Our Nearest Star (Let's-Read-and-Find Out)* by Franklyn M. Branley and Edward Miller
-  *The Sun* by Seymour Simon
-  *Grandpa, What is Air? (Popular Science for Children Ages 4-8, Books' Series)* by Daniel Levy
-  *Day and Night (First Step Nonfiction: Discovering Nature's Cycles)* by Robin Nelson
-  *Day and Night (Patterns in Nature)* by Margaret Hall and Jo Miller
-  *What Makes Day and Night (Let's-Read-and-Find Out Science 2)* by Franklyn M. Branley and Arthur Dorros






Notebooking

Vocabulary

Go over the following word with your students. Then, have them create a flashcard or copy the definition into the glossary.

-  **Atmosphere** – A layer of gas that surrounds a planet. (Flashcard p. 33; Glossary p. 45)

Writing Instructions

-  **Lapbook** – Have the students begin the Weather lapbook by cutting out and coloring the cover on p. 25.
-  **Lapbook** – Have the students complete the Sun mini-book on p. 26. Have them cut out the pages and color the cover. Next, have the students tell you what they have learned about how the sun affects Earth's weather. Then, have them fold the book and glue it into their lapbook.
-  **Lapbook** – Have the students complete the Layers of the Atmosphere card on p. 27. Have the younger students cut out and glue the completed card into their lapbook.
-  **Lapbook** – Have the students cut out and glue the vocabulary pocket on p. 33 into their lapbook.
-  **Notebook** – Have the students dictate, copy, or write one to four sentences about the sun and Earth's atmosphere on the sun and atmosphere notebooking page on p. 39.

Hands-on Science

Coordinating Activities

- ✂ **Rain Gauge** – This project will be completed over the remainder of this unit. This week, you will need a plastic water bottle, duct tape, a permanent marking pen, small marbles or rocks, and a ruler. Begin by cutting the top off of the plastic bottle at the point where the diameter of the bottle starts to decrease. Keep the top portion of the bottle that was cut off and cover all the cut edges with duct tape to hide the sharp edges. On the bottom section of the bottle use a ruler to make a scale of horizontal lines in centimeters with the permanent marker. Have the students make the first line four centimeters from the bottom. Then, have them add a line layer of marbles or rocks in the bottom portion of the bottle to steady the base. Next, have them pour water into the bottle up to the first line of their scale. Finally, have them turn the top portion of the bottle upside down and place it inside the opening of the bottom portion to form a funnel-shaped lid. Now the students are ready to begin measuring the rain with their bottle. The rain gauge chart on pp. 50-51 of the Appendix has both a predicted rain amount and an actual rain amount. After reviewing the weather report for the week, have the students predict how much they think it is going to rain each day. You can choose to have them record the rain for 5 or 7 days a week. Either way, they will be recording their observations in a similar fashion over the remaining weeks in this unit.
- ✂ **(Optional) Atmosphere Collage** – Have the student make an atmosphere collage that depicts the different object one can find in the various layers of the atmosphere. Use the reference books for ideas of what to draw. Have the older students write a sentence about what each of the layers are like.



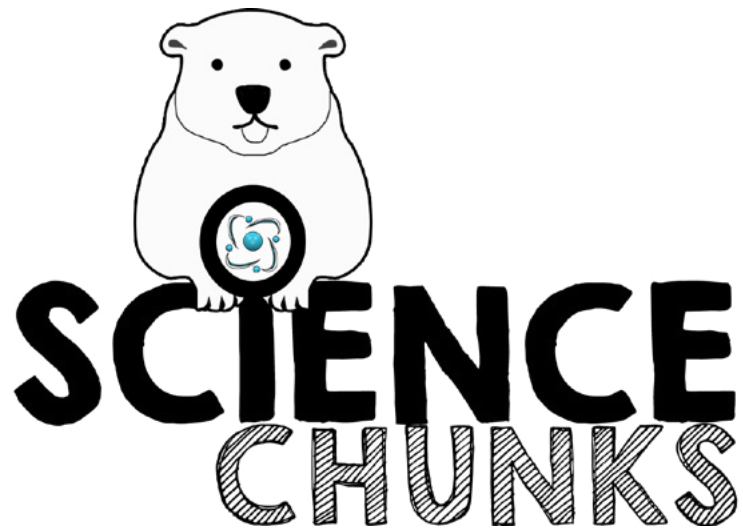
To-Do List

Essential

- ☐ Read the appropriate reading assignment.
- ☐ Define atmosphere.
- ☐ Complete the lapbook or notebook assignments.
- ☐ Do the “Rain Gauge” activity.

Optional

- ☐ Get one or more of the library books to read.
- ☐ Fill out a lab report sheet (p. 49) for one of the activities.
- ☐ Do the “Atmosphere Collage” activity



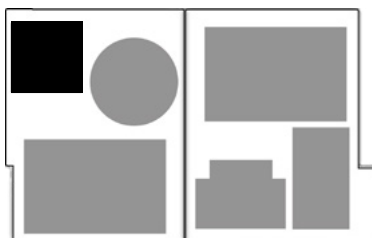
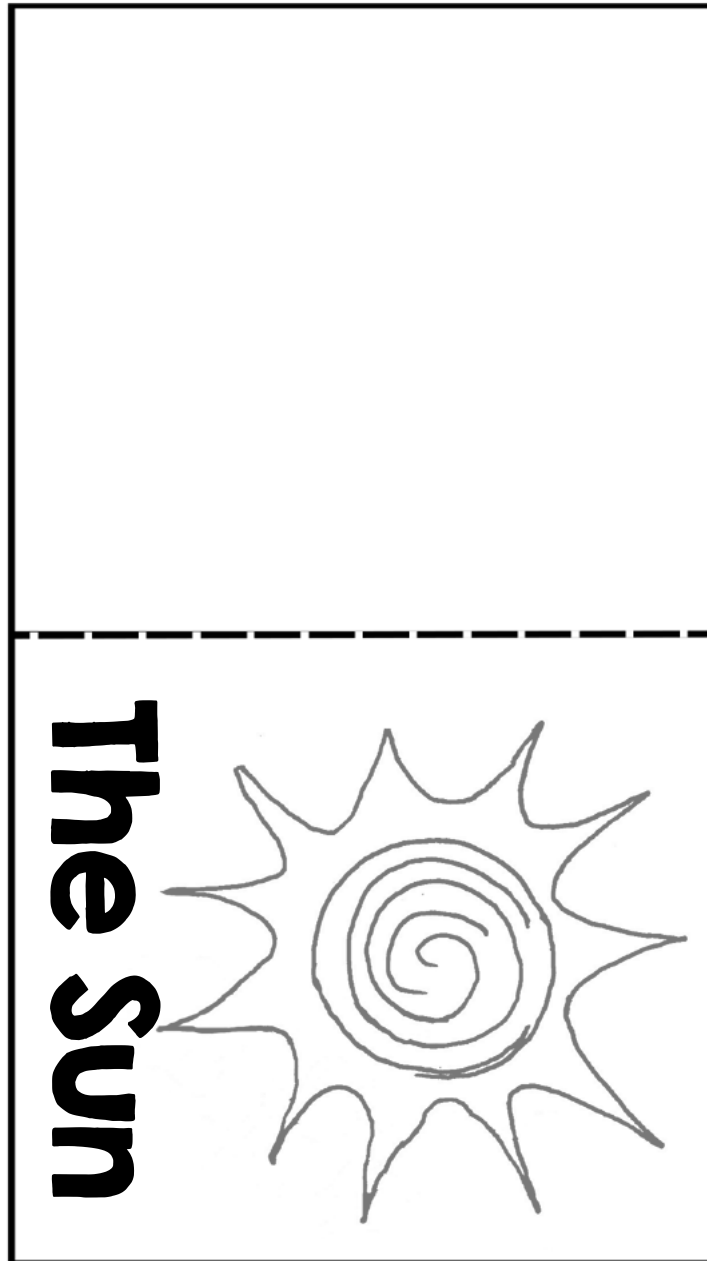
Student Lapbook Templates

Weather Lapbook

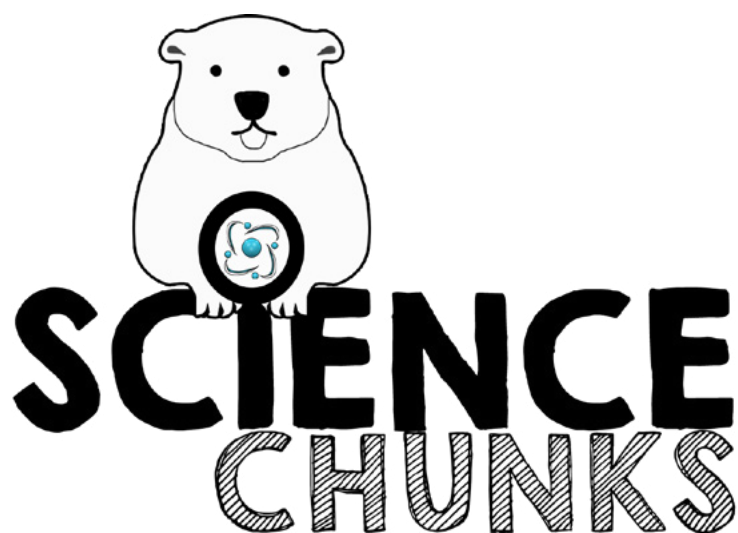
You will need two sheets of card stock or one file folder. If you are using card stock, begin by taping the two sheets together on the longest edge. The completed lapbook will look like this on the inside:



The Sun Mini-book



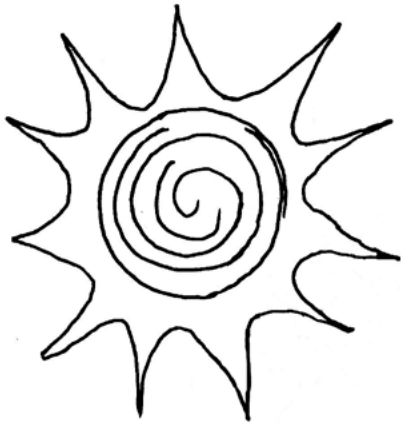
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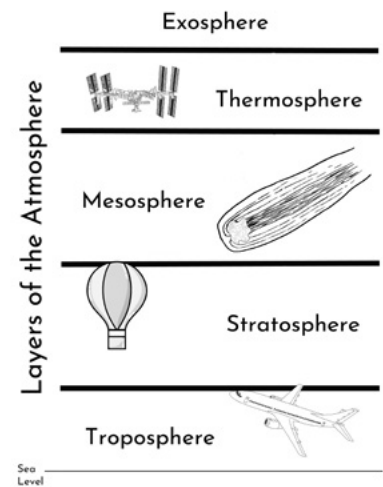
Student Notebook Pages

The Sun and Atmosphere

The Sun

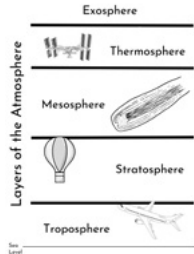


Atmosphere

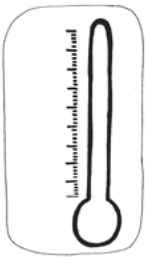
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Weather Vocabulary

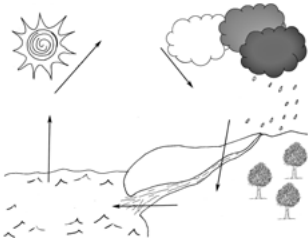
Atmosphere -



Climate -



Natural Cycle -



Precipitation -