

# Weather Calendar

## MATERIALS

### FOR STUDENT:

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Balls:
  - Rain – half of one 2" diameter
  - Snow – half of one 2" diameter
  - Sun – half of one 1 ½" diameter
  - Cloud – four 1" diameter
  - Wind – four 1" diameter
  - Storm – four 1" diameter
- Cardstock paper:
  - Rain – 1" x 1 ½" light blue
  - Snow – 2 ¾" square white
  - Sun – 3 ½" square yellow
- Tinsel chenille stem, 6" length, silver for Storm (can get two per 12" length stem)
- Plastic drinking straw, 3 ½" length, blue and white for Wind (can get two per 8" length straw)
- White tacky craft glue (one bottle per two students)
- Paper plate



### FOR TEACHER:

- FloraCraft® Design It:® Wire Cutter
- Laminated wall calendar or large paper calendar
- Glue gun (for teacher only)
- Glue dots, one per icon (to hang on laminated calendar)
- Serrated knife
- Small scissors
- Pencil
- Ruler

## SCIENCE

GRADE LEVEL

KINDERGARTEN – FIRST

### COMPLETION TIME

- 20 minutes



### OBJECTIVES

Students learn:

- Various types of weather
- Use of fine motor skills
- Listening and following step by step instructions

### STANDARDS

- Weather changes from day to day and over the seasons
- Weather can be described by measurable quantities, such as temperature and precipitation

## TEACHER PREPARATION

*Note: Read through all the instructions first and check out the TIPS! Decide how many sets of weather icons the class will make and how you'll handle the students making different projects - either seeking assistance or dividing the class and teaching each group separately. Have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) but out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when in a hurry to help students. Be sure glue has cooled before returning projects to students (takes a minute or so.) It is also recommended that you make one set first, before preparing the materials for any others, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare.*

**[1]** For the Sun, Snowflake and Raindrop, print and cut the patterns from the lesson plan sheet.

**[2]** For the Sun icon, trace the sun pattern onto the yellow cardstock. Cut it out (or later have students cut it out). Use a serrated knife to cut the 1 ½" foam ball in half (which provides half for each of two groups). Repeat for the number of groups of students.

**[3]** For the Snow icon, trace the snowflake pattern onto the white cardstock. Cut it out (or later have students cut it out). Use a serrated knife to cut the 2" foam ball in half (which provides half for each of two groups). Repeat for the number of groups of students.

**[4]** Similarly, for the Rain icon, trace the raindrop pattern three times onto the light blue cardstock. Cut them out (or later have students cut them out.) Use a serrated knife to cut the 2" foam ball in half (which provides half for each of two groups). Repeat for the number of groups of students.

**[5]** For the Cloud, Wind and Storm icons, use a serrated knife to cut four 1" foam balls in half (total 8 halves) for each icon.

Use the ruler and a wire cutter to measure and cut one 6" length tinsel stem per Storm icon and one 3 ½" length plastic straw per Wind icon. On one end of each straw, make eight 2" long slits so that students can later fan them out to represent the wind.

**[6]** Prepare the work area for the groups of students with a paper plate of materials for each icon, in each group, along with several tacky glue bottles per group.

In a separate area, use scissors to cut apart six glue dots and place them sticky-side-up on a paper plate for each group. (Don't let them overlap and wait to distribute until all the icons are finished.)



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# INSTRUCTIONS

**[1]** For organizational purposes, the students making the Sun, Snow and Rain icons can work together on paper plates (to contain the glue).

For the Sun, have students apply tacky glue to the back of the 1 ½" foam ball half and set onto the yellow sun cutout.

For the Snow, have students fold over each point on the white snowflake cutout, close to the center. Then fold back the points, to create a dimensional look. Glue the snowflake to the round side of the 2" foam ball half.

For the Rain, have students glue three raindrops on the round side of the 2" foam ball half.



**[2]** The students making the three cloud types: Cloud, Wind and Storm icons, can work together (on paper plates).

For all three icons, have students make the basic cloud shape by arranging five of the eight 1" foam ball halves side by side, in an up-and-down shape (like a caterpillar). Gently push together each ball half to slightly flatten where they join and use tacky glue to connect. Then apply tacky glue to the flat side of each of the remaining three ball halves and set on top to look like a puffy cloud.

For the Storm, have students bend the tinsel stem into a zig-zag lightning bolt. When the cloud is dry enough, glue it to the back of the cloud so that both the top and bottom of the bolt shows from the front.

For the Wind, have students fan out the split ends on the straw. Similarly, glue the straw to the back of the cloud. (Have the glue gun ready, if needed.)



**[3]** Distribute paper plates of glue dots. Caution students not to touch them. Explain that the little pieces of release paper, have sticky dots on them. Demonstrate how to carefully pick up a release paper off the paper plate (without touching the glue dot) and turn it over onto the back of an icon. Firmly press down to attach the glue dot to the foam but don't remove the release paper until it's time to attach it to the laminated calendar. (Be sure to save it to put back onto the icon when it is removed and stored.)



**[4]** Attach an icon to the calendar each day, based on the weather and discuss what is happening to cause that particular type of weather.

## MODIFICATIONS

### To simplify project:

- Have the bottom layer of the cloud icons already glued. Students can glue on the three top-layer ball halves.
- Pre-bend the tinsel chenille stems into lightning bolts.

### To expand project:

- Discuss and have students come up with other ways that they can make additional weather icons such as Tornado, Hurricane, Hail, etc.
- Each student could make their own set to attach to their desk each day or take home to use.

### For multiple ages:

- Younger and older students can work side-by-side with the older students designing more icons, cutting and folding while the younger students do the gluing to assemble.
- Older students can use foam, chenille stems, felt, paper and other craft basics to make miniature versions of the weather icons to use on a large US map, showing the type of weather in each region of the country.

## ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Store each group of icons in small boxes, or plastic jars that are easy to open for daily use.
- Make giant icons as room decorations, using large foam balls, poster board, and jumbo chenille stems (found in specialty toy stores).
- Make double-sided icons that have fish line sandwiched between the layers. Hang in the classroom.



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## TIPS

- If any cut edges of the foam ball halves are irregular, just rub together the two parts of the ball, over a wastebasket, to sand them down. You can also roll the edges on the table to compress the edges so that they are less likely to break apart.
- Have extras of each of the various materials.
- Check the nozzles of the tacky glue bottles to be sure that they are clear. If not, bend open a paper clip. Remove the paper clip wire into the nozzle (from the inside), forcing any dried glue out of the nozzle (not down into the glue bottle). Test it to be sure that it's clear.
- When using and storing tacky glue bottles, make sure that the caps are on and set them on their sides. This keeps glue in the nozzles so that there is minimal squeezing when using.
- If students have difficulty holding the icons while applying the glue dots, have them take turns with a partner - one student holds, while the other student applies the glue dots and presses them onto the back of the icon.
- If the wall calendar is not laminated, cut ¾" squares of masking tape to attach to each day on the calendar. (This way the glue dots on the back of the icons have a surface to which they can stick, but still be removed without tearing the paper.)

## REFERENCES

*What Will The Weather Be Like Today?* by Paul Rogers  
*The Kids' Book Of Weather Forecasting* by Mark Breen and Kathleen Friestad  
*National Geographic Kids Everything Weather* by Kathy Furgang  
*The Everything KIDS' Weather Book* by Joe Snedeker

# PATTERN

Print at 100% so that the sun pattern measures 3 1/4" diameter.



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