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LESSON PLAN

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CLIMATE-WEATHER ACTIVITY

Materials:

- A transparent glass jar or plastic bottle.
- A length of transparent tube (drinking straw)
- Blu-tac or modelling clay
- Tap water
- Small quantity of food colouring

Instructions:

1. Take the transparent container and fill around half full with tap water.
2. Add a few drops of the dye or food colouring to the water, enough so you can clearly see the water change to the colour of the dye.



3. Insert the straw or tube into the container, and tape it to the inside of the container (ensure that the straw is not touching on the bottom of the container).

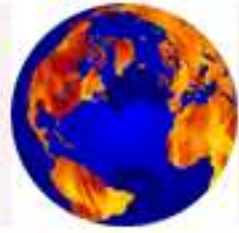


4. Draw the liquid up through the straw (suck on it) until it appears above the water line.

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5. As the liquid rises to the top of the straw, quickly pinch the end of the tube and seal off with blu-tac or clay
6. Attach a short ruler piece or piece paper to the outside of the container in order to measure and record changes in air pressure.



The Finished Barometer

What Happens?

As the pressure in the atmosphere rises, water in the jar is forced downwards which in turn, will put pressure on the water in the straw and force it to rise. Rising air pressure means rising water in the straw and falling air pressure means the water level in the straw drops.

You may have noticed when watching weather reports on TV, that when the air pressure is rising, the weather generally becomes fine, clear and generally dry. The reverse is generally the case, and when the air pressure falls, the weather becomes more unsettled.