

Let's investigate the weather outside?

Background	<p>Using the school grounds enables pupils and teachers to explore micro changes in their environment and respond to any immediate changes that may occur, e.g. the arrival of workmen on the school site or flooding after heavy rain. A weather investigation is a really good way to get children involved in some real data collection.</p> <p>Aim: To develop learners' geographical fieldwork skills by conducting a small-scale weather investigation.</p>
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Content	5 activities
Timing	1 term
Target age	Years 3 and 4
LNF links	listed against the specific activities using the coded framework skills pathways.

Further activity

Improving our weather descriptions

Can you improve your weather descriptions by adding similes?
What are **similes**?

Here are some examples created by children.

The wind was as cold as ice.

The clouds were as fluffy as feathers.

The snow was as soft as a pillow.

The rain was as wild as a bear. The sun was as hot as a fire.

The light shone as bright as the moon.

Research work: weather sayings,
e.g. 'Red sky at night, shepherd's delight'



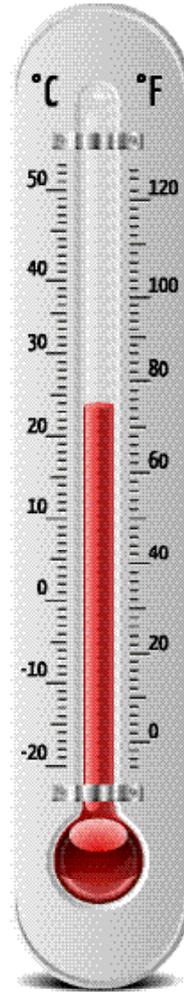
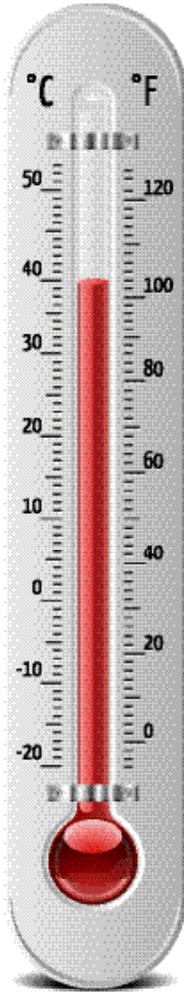
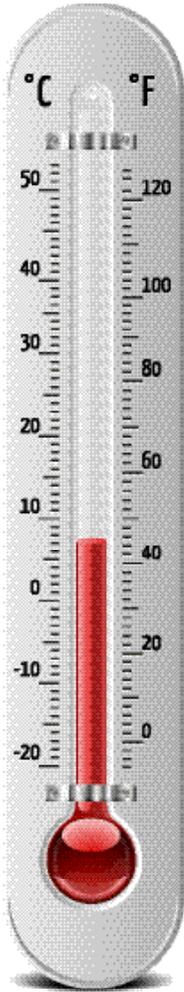
Notes for Teachers

Literacy Skill Pathways – RS8: Reading strategies: Locating information. WM2: Organising Information and Ideas: Writing for Meaning. WL1: Writing Accurately: Use appropriate language. WL2: Writing accurately: Use of vocabulary. WG1: Handwriting, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: Sentence structures.

Further activity

Let's measure the temperature!

Measure the temperature on these 3 thermometers. Record your answers below.



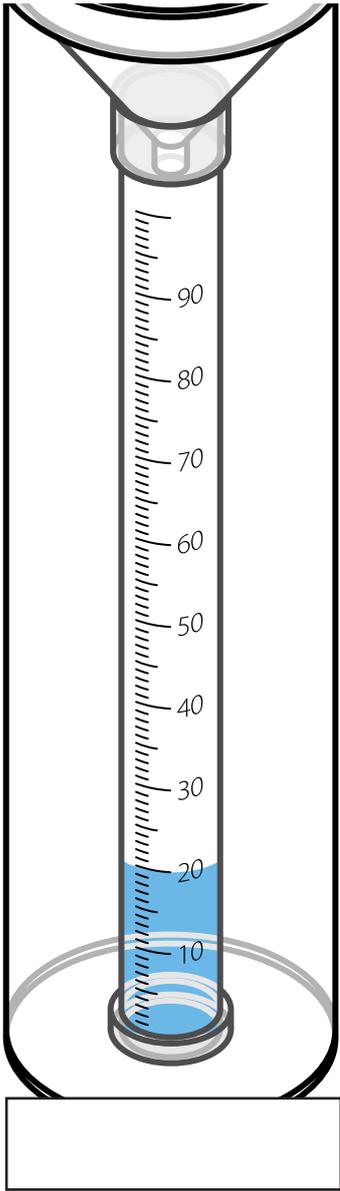
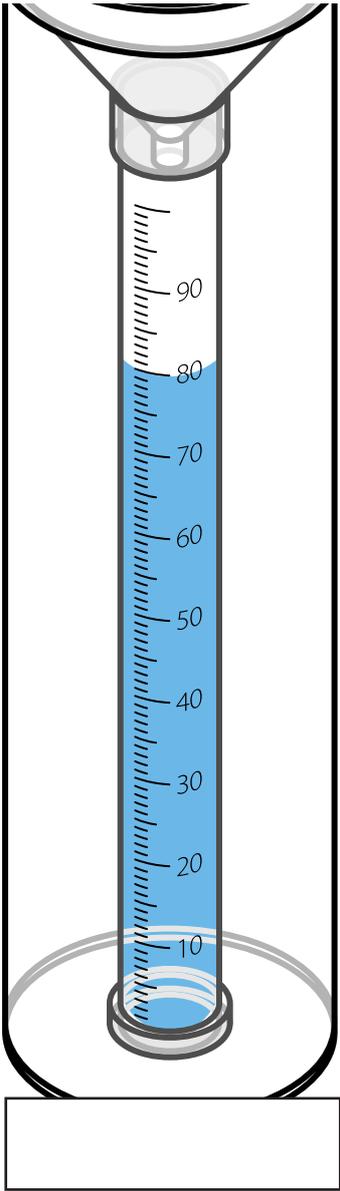
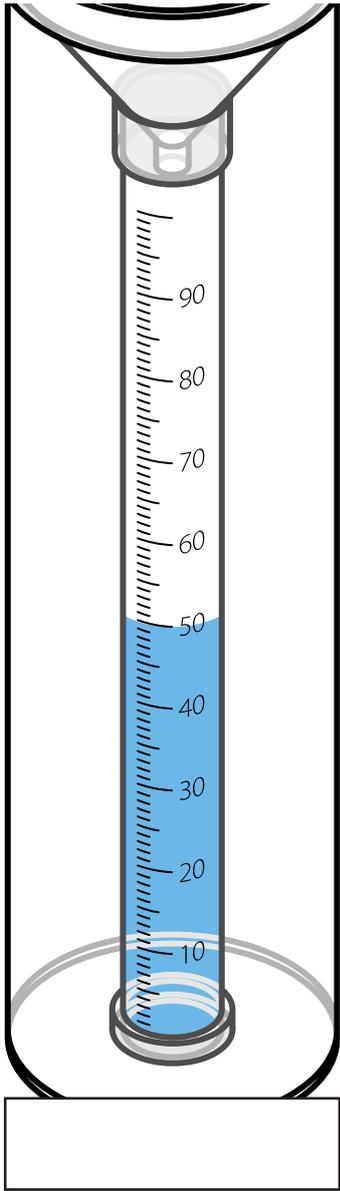
Notes for Teachers

You may use this activity before asking the learners to carry out their investigation to remind them how to measure the temperature.
Numeracy Skill Pathways – M1 = Measuring skills: Length, weight/mass, capacity; M7 = Measuring skills: Temperature: Temperature – measurement; M8 = Measuring skills: Temperature: Temperature- measurement.

Further activity

Let's measure the rainfall!

Measure the water in these 3 cylinders. Record your answers below.



Notes for Teachers

You may use this activity before asking the learners to carry out their investigation to remind them how to measure the rainfall.
Numeracy Skill Pathways – M1 = Measuring skills: Length, weight/mass, capacity: Reading and measuring scales

Further activity

Challenge! Make your own anemometer!

Materials: needle, thread, ping-pong ball, protractor



Method:

1. Cut a piece of thread about 20cm long. Thread the needle and tie a large knot at the end of the thread. Stick the needle into one side of the ping pong ball and out the opposite site. Draw the thread through until the knot at the other end stops the thread from moving.
2. Tie the thread to the centre of the straight base of the protractor so that the ball hangs below the arc of the protractor which has the angles marked on it. If the protractor is held level, where there is no wind, then the ball will hold the thread over the 90° mark.
3. Take the protractor outside. Hold it level and parallel to the wind. The wind will blow the ball and when it does, note the position of the thread on the protractor. Record the angle that the ball has been blown and use the chart to convert the angle to a wind speed.

Angle	Kilometres per hour
90°	0
85°	9
80°	13
75°	16
70°	19
65°	22
60°	24
55°	26
50°	29
45°	32
40°	34
35°	38
30°	42
25°	46
20°	52

Use your anemometer to record the wind speed.

Notes for Teachers

Numeracy Skill Pathways: M1: Measuring skills: Length, weight/mass, capacity: Reading and measuring scales. M11: Measuring skills: Length, weight/mass, capacity: Angles

Further activity

Let's investigate the weather outside!
 What do you think we will find out?

Record your data in the table below.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Temperature (e.g. 10°C)					
Rainfall (e.g. 5 mm)					
Wind direction (e.g. N)					
Wind speed (e.g. 11 km/h)					
Weather (e.g. cloudy)					

Then: Write a weather report to describe the weather in your school grounds last week.

Notes for Teachers

Numeracy Skill Pathways: M7: Measuring Skills: Temperature: Temperature-comparisons. M8: Measuring Skills: Temperature: Temperature – measurement. D2: Collect and record data, present and analyse data, interpret results: Collecting data. D3: Collect and record data, present and analyse data, interpret results: Interpreting data. D4: Collect and record data, present and analyse data, interpret results: Presenting data
 Literacy Skill Pathways: WM1: Organising Information and Ideas: Writing for purpose. WS1: Structure and Organisation: Use writing structures. Writing WL2: Writing Accurately: Use of vocabulary. WG1: Handwriting, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: Sentence structures

Further activity

Weather bulletin/forecast... Role Play

Use on-line weather forecast, e.g. bbc weather <http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/> to find out what the weather will be like in 4 different places in Wales.

Remember to choose 4 different locations, e.g. one place in North Wales, another place in East Wales, etc.

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Notes for Teachers

Literacy Skill Pathways – OS2 = Oracy: Speaking: Explain and present; OS4 = Oracy: Speaking: Speak clearly, adapting talk. OS5: Oracy: Speaking: Participate in Role play