

PARENT / INSTRUCTOR NOTES  
**Weather Scavenger Hunt**

**Objective:** One of the most important steps in the Scientific Method is making observations, and there are many different ways we can perceive the world around us. Observing the weather is important for many different reasons, and you will be exploring some of those reasons today. For this activity, go outside and make your own observations to complete the scavenger hunt!

**Estimated Completion Time:** 40 minutes

## Part I. Before You Begin

### Materials:

- Pen or Pencil (and crayons if you'd like to color!)
- A hard surface to write on (like a clipboard or a notebook)
- Phone or Tablet (*if you prefer to complete the activity digitally - or want to take pictures!*)
- **Optional:** Take a bag with you and see how much litter you can collect!

### Directions:

- Safety First! Be sure to observe all local rules and regulations and be aware of your surroundings (ie Look both ways before you cross the street!)
- Find an area where you can see the sky, feel the wind, and hear the environment
- Leave No Trace! If you bring water or a snack on your adventure, please remember to throw away any leftover garbage responsibly

### Questions:

1. Where will you be completing your Scavenger Hunt?  
(*Be as specific as possible*)

*Depending on the level of the student, this could be anything from 'my backyard' to 'Raleigh, NC at Umstead Park'. Encourage the student's use of descriptive details.*

2. Have you been there before? **Yes** **No** (*circle one*)

3. If you circled **Yes** for #2:  
a. When was the last time you were there?

*The more detailed, the better! What was the date, month, season, holiday, etc.*

- b. What was the weather like?

4. Do you think the weather will be the same today as it was last time you were there?

**Yes No** (circle one)

Why or Why not?

*Is it the same/different time of year? Maybe you only like to go outside when the weather is sunny and warm so the weather will be the same!*

## Part II. Ready, Set, Observe!

5. What is the date and time? \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

6. What season is it? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the weather **usually** like during this season?

8. Describe the weather **today**  
(with words or with a picture)

9. Is your answer to #7 the same as your answer to #8? **Yes No** (circle one)

*Climate is what we **expect** to see on a typical day (#7); Weather is what you're observing **TODAY** (#8)*

10. Guess the temperature! \_\_\_\_\_ °F

*Hints: 85°F - Hot Summer Day; 50°F - Cool Fall-like weather; 32°F - Freezing point*

11. What are you wearing to prepare for the weather?

*(It's sunny so I'm wearing sunglasses & sunscreen; it's hot so I'm wearing light colors & sandals)*

12. How is the weather affecting you?

(Are you hot and sweaty? Are you cold and shivering? Is the wind making your hair messy?)

13. How is the environment being affected by the weather?

(Are the trees moving? Is the sidewalk hot?)

14. Find an object that has been affected by the weather. Draw or describe what you found.

*Students can use anything they'd like! A leaf on the ground could have been blown off by the wind, or maybe the summer is ending and fall is beginning (it's getting colder). A flower may be blooming because the weather is getting warmer. Your bike might be rusted because of the rain.*

15. How has your object been affected by the weather?

*\*See #14\**

16. Close your eyes for 10 seconds and focus on the sounds around you

a. Write down what you heard

b. Write or draw what made the sound(s)

*This is an exercise to show students that observations can be more than just what you see with your eyes or touch with your hands.*

17. Have you observed any wildlife on our scavenger hunt so far? **Yes** **No** (circle one)

*(Wildlife are animals or insects found in nature, like North Carolina's state bird the cardinal!)*

a. If no, why do you think that is?

*Are you in a big city? Are the animals and insects taking shelter from rain?*

b. If yes, what animal did you see/hear?

c. Describe or draw the wildlife that you observed.

*Remember, an observation doesn't have to be something you saw! It can be something you heard (or even smelled)!*

18. How does the weather affect the wildlife around us?

*(If it's sunny today, how would the wildlife behave differently if it were raining instead?)*

*What kind of conditions do turtles need to sunbathe? Why do we find worms on the sidewalk after it rains but not on a warm sunny day?*

19. If you came back to this location in 3 months, what would be the same?

*(Think about the weather, the plants, the animals, etc.)*

*Consider the landscape, natural or man-made features, etc.*

20. If you came back to this location in 3 months, what would be different?

*Talk with your student about what season is coming up next and how the weather will be changing over the next few months.*

***Extension Activities:***

- [\*Build/Use Your Own Instruments\*](#)
- [\*Work with ECONet Website and Station Data\*](#)
- [\*Citizen Science Project page\*](#)