

UNIT PLAN BRAINSTORM



Project Rainway (Theater, Visual Art, Science)

A fur coat or a bathing suit? Sunglasses or mittens? One part of getting ready is making sure to dress appropriately for the weather outside, but that doesn't mean you can't do it in fabulous style! Begin a brainstorm for a weather fashion show by sourcing different kinds of weather from your class. As students respond, ask them what attire they would wear for each and even mime putting on each garment. Next, create a giant materials bin with costumes, blankets, butcher paper, fabrics, found objects and, of course, glitter! Have your students pick a specific climate, and then have them create an outfit for their weather using the costume bin. This could be a visor made out of construction paper, a sundress made out of a blanket, or a poncho made from butcher paper. Students can also sketch out their costume on a blank sheet of paper to help them plan. Once your students have made their outfits, it's time to walk the runway! While each student showcases their number, have the rest of the class make the sounds of that weather as a musical backdrop. When you're done, invite another class to sit down and watch your weather fashion extravaganza!

To support this unit, use *Cloudy with a Chance of Fashion! Creativity Page in the Discover and Create Section.*

Singing in the Rain (Music, Theater)

Rain pattering on the window, thunder rumbling in the sky, trees blowing in the breeze...these sounds are all music! Create your own song about weather by asking your students how different types of weather makes them feel. Record their responses on the whiteboard or a large sheet of paper. You can also pose questions like: *What activities can you do in this weather?* or *What time of year does this weather occur?* After you have a weather word bank, piece together what your class brainstormed to build two to four simple lines of lyrics. It can be as simple as: *The sun makes me feel joy / When it's warm outside, I play with my toys.* Now, set your lyrics to the melody of a simple song you all know, like "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," or create a melody of your own! After you've chosen your melody, have your students create accompaniment that matches the weather you're singing about. This accompaniment can be made with found objects in the room, like using blocks to create thunder or body percussion, like snapping, to create rain. You can even choreograph a corresponding dance or physical movement to go with the weather song you've just created. Now, whenever this weather occurs throughout the school year, your class can sing this song, adding on to it every time!

To support this unit, use the *Let's Have a Party Weather We Want to or Not! Activity* in the Respond and Connect section.

Rainy Day Blues (Science, Visual Art)

Is it windy today? Rainy? Cloudy, sunny or somewhere in between? Have students create their very own weather trackers, by recording the weather and their mood for a whole month! First, each student needs a print out of a blank calendar for that month. For each day, students will color that date with a color that corresponds to the day's weather pattern. They should choose their own colors that correspond to the different types of weather: sunny, cloudy, rainy, snowy, etc. Next, students will draw something that indicates their emotion for the day. Decorations can be added like stickers, drawings, glitter, pompoms—whatever helps students express their emotions about the day's weather. Once finished, students should share their drawing for the day with other students and talk about how the weather makes them feel. By the end of month, you will have a completed collage that represents the month's weather and the emotions evoked by the weather. Repeat for each month if you want for an entire year's (or more) worth of weather tracking.

To support this unit, use the *An Emotional Weather Barometer Activity* in the Discover and Create section.