



# Be the Weather Instrument



## A NOAA Teacher's Guide

### Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to allow students to feel the weather around them, using all of their senses. This allows students to gain an understanding and introduction to the principles of weather- how it looks, feels, and affects everything else, as well as the interconnectedness of our atmosphere, water, and land

### Instructions

1. Take the students outside to a large, open area, preferably one with multiple surfaces (pavement, wood, grass, etc.).
2. Guide students through finding the answers to the following questions through their senses.
  - a. **Sight:** Look around you. What do you notice about the clouds and the color of the sky? Is it the same or different in other directions? What about the ground and surfaces near you? Are they wet, dry, dusty, or something else?
  - b. **Sound:** What do you hear? The pitter-patter of nearby rain? The whistling of wind? The singing of birds? Or is there just silence?
  - c. **Smell:** How does the air smell? Do you smell different things when you face different directions?
  - d. **Touch:** Notice how the air feels on your skin. Is it heavy or light? Does it feel cold or hot? Does it feel wet or dry? Notice how the wind blows by extending your arms above your head. Which way is it blowing? How strong is the wind? Does it change in different areas? Notice the things around you. Are they wet? Cold?
3. Try and have students make connections between their observations
  - a. Example: Do you think the smell you notice might have anything to do with which way the wind is blowing? Do you think the sounds you heard might contribute to the wetness you feel on the grass?
4. Guide students to imagine they were somewhere else (a beach, a big city, on top of a mountain). How would the things you experienced change? Why do you think that is?