WEATHER INVESTIGATION:

3-5 Instruction Guide

This activity will focus on weather! Checking the weather is probably a part of your family’s day. It helps you decide what clothes to wear, what shoes to put on, and what to expect when you go outside.

So, what is weather? Weather is the condition of the air at a particular time and place. Weather includes things like the wind, sun, and water, which is called precipitation when it falls from clouds. When weather changes for a long period of time in a predictable way, we get seasons. Weather affects many parts of nature. Lots of animals can only live in certain places because of weather. Some flowers are only seen during certain times of year because of the weather. And both plants and animals have ways of changing, or adapting, when the weather is different from what they expect.

Predicting weather is a science called meteorology. Meteorologists use clues to predict weather and one of the ways they do this is by observing clouds. Different clouds mean different things about the weather. For example, if clouds are dark and tall like mountains, it might mean a storm is on the way. If clouds are white and puffy, it probably means the weather will be nice for a while.

And if clouds are long and thin, they’re probably high up in the sky and this tells us the weather is going to change soon.

Fold this sheet in half along the dotted line, grab a pencil, and head outside to make some observations about today!

Match these weather words to their definition. Look back at your instruction sheet if you need help.

- **Meteorologist**
  - A scientist who studies weather

- **Precipitation**
  - Water falling from clouds

- **Seasons**
  - When weather changes over a long time in a predictable way

Draw a picture of the sky in the box below.

What color are the clouds?
____________________

Are they close or far away?
____________________

Describe how else they look:
____________________

Because the clouds are _____________ today, I predict the weather tomorrow will be ________________.

In the chart below, record how the temperature feels (hot, cold, warm) and how the clouds look each day this week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</table>

Did the weather change a lot over the week?