Making A Weather Map
Grades K-2

Introduction

Students will look at today's national weather map and make their own maps, using symbols that they create and showing the weather in a few cities across the country. They'll imagine that they're going to visit one of these cities and will write a description of the things they'll need to take. This lesson may need to be modified depending on your students' ability levels; if it's too difficult for them, don't give them the handout but do the project as a class. If it's too easy, see the Weather Map lesson for grades 3-5, which is similar to this one but more involved.

Time Frame: 1 class period

Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Draw symbols to represent various types of weather.
- Locate and map cities on their outline maps.
- Draw weather symbols on their maps to illustrate today's weather.
- Discuss the weather across the country today.
- Write sentences explaining what they'd take on a trip to one of the cities on their map.

National Social Studies Standards:

- 3: People, Places, and Environments: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments.

National Geography Standards:

- 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.
- 18: How to apply geography to interpret the present or plan for the future.

Maps and Materials Needed

Materials Needed:

- Today's weather map, either from a newspaper or The Weather Channel Online: **http://www.weather.com**
- United States Outline Map: **http://www.maps101.com/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&id=14461:united-states&cid=100:outline** (one for each student: download and print the PDF file)
- crayons or colored pencils

Additional Map Resources Used:

- U.S. Reference Atlas: **http://www.maps101.com/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&id=12801:united-states&cid=345:north-america**

Procedure

1. Show students a national weather map from today's newspaper or from The Weather Channel Online: **http://www.weather.com**. Ask them to describe what the symbols or shadings on the map mean. It would be best if you could copy a map and give one to each student or pair of students.
2. Ask students to draw symbols on their handouts showing how they would depict various weather conditions if they were to create their own weather maps. Obviously, you will need to assist younger children with the vocabulary and reading on the handout.
3. Give each student a United States outline map (**http://www.maps101.com/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&id=14461:united-states&cid=100:outline**).
4. Help students locate the following cities on their outline maps. They can use the U.S. Reference Atlas (**http://www.maps101.com/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&id=12801:united-states&cid=345:north-america**) or another map that you have available. Once they figure out where the cites are, ask them to draw dots on their outline maps showing the cities' locations and to write the cities' names next to the dots.
    - Los Angeles, California
    - Seattle, Washington
    - Denver, Colorado
    - Miami, Florida
    - Chicago, Illinois
    - New York, New York
    - Washington, DC
5. Ask students to look more closely at today's weather map and to determine what the weather is like in the cities they have mapped. Have them draw their own symbols on their maps to show the weather in each of these cities.
6. Discuss with the class what the weather across the country is like today. In what cities is it raining? In what cities is it sunny? In what city would they most like to be today, and why?
7. Ask students to imagine that they are going to visit one of the cities on the map. Have them write a few sentences describing the things they'd need to take if they went to that city today. Each student may choose a different city.

Assessment Suggestions

Check to make sure that students have:

- Drawn a symbol for each of the given weather situations.
- Accurately mapped the cities on their outline maps.
- Drawn their symbols next to the appropriate cities on their outline maps.
- Thoughtfully and carefully written their sentences.

Extension

Have students go to the The Weather Channel Online: **http://www.weather.com** to see what the weather actually looks like in some of the cities they've mapped.

Student Handout

1. Draw pictures of the weather:

   sunny

   partly cloudy

   raining

   snowing

   lightning and thunder

2. Draw these cities on your map:

   Los Angeles, California
   Seattle, Washington
   Denver, Colorado
   Miami, Florida
   Chicago, Illinois
   New York, New York
   Washington, DC

3. Choose one city to visit. What things will you take on your trip?