

Title Farmers and Forecasts

Subject: Science

Skills: investigating, cause and effect, drawing conclusions, predicting

Grade Level: 2-6

Length of Lesson: 40 minutes

Overview: Students will develop a list of different weather scenarios that farmers may encounter, and come up with solutions for each.

Background information: The students will need to do some research at the library or on the internet in order to become familiar with some modern farming practices.

Materials:

Access to library materials

Internet access

Farmers and Forecasts worksheet

Teaching the Lesson:

1. Ask students what they wear during the summer. Draw a picture of the sun on the board, and write some of their answers around it. Ask them what they wear in the rain, and draw a picture of an umbrella on the board. Write their answers around it. Repeat this process cold weather, windy weather, etc.
2. Ask students how they know what to wear. Answers should include looking outside, watching the weather forecast, knowing the local climate, etc.
3. Ask students why they think farmers need to be more aware of the weather than most other people.
4. Make a list of possible weather scenarios and how they could affect a farmer. Students may be unaware that if there is a drought, farmers need irrigation. If it is rainy, farmers cannot cut hay because it must be able to dry on the ground after it is cut, before being put into bales. If it is cold, some plants could freeze.
5. After the class has made the list of weather scenarios, have the students either individually or in small groups complete, the Farmers and Forecasts worksheet. They will first predict what they think a farmer can do to handle the situation, then research it at the library or on the internet, and record that information on their worksheets as well.

Evaluation:

Weather charts can be used as an evaluation tool

Farmers and Forecasts

Name:

Type of Weather (Cause)	How it affects the farmer (Effect)	My prediction of what a farmer should do to fix the problem	What I learned about this problem