



Weather Watch



Go online by visiting your newspaper's website. You'll find the address on the front page. Look for the NiE logo at the top of the page and click! This will link you to APN's NiE webpage.

What's the weather?

This week's activity let's you explore the science of meteorology and gives you the opportunity to try out some experiments in this field.



QUIZ TIME

Each week we will test your knowledge on what's been happening in the news. For the answers visit NiE online.

- 1 Which year levels at schools across Australia took part in NAPLAN testing last week?
- 2 A World Wildlife Fund report ranking the world's biggest polluters puts Australia in which place?
- 3 What is the name of Australia's national weather, climate and water agency?

"Whether it's cold or whether it's hot, we shall have weather whether or not." Meteorology is the study of the changes in temperature, air pressure, moisture and wind direction. Join us as we find out more about the weather.

THE weather forecast.....is it correct today? How cold /hot will it be today? Will I need a jumper? Will I need an umbrella? Where do we turn when we want questions such as these answered? The weather forecast!

A weather forecast is made by applying science and technology to collecting data about the state of the earth's troposphere in different locations and predicting what influence this will have on the weather.

Knowing how the atmosphere works helps to foretell weather behaviours.

The forecasts of today are generally reliable but at times the information proves to be inaccurate.

This is because weather changes can be rapid and come without warning.

The Bureau of Meteorology provides services including forecasts, warnings and the latest observations. By watching these daily forecasts or studying the newspaper's weather page, you can learn what each day will bring. We cannot control weather but knowing the forecast can help us plan our daily activities better.

The Job

METEOROLOGISTS study the atmosphere and predict weather conditions over land and sea. To become a meteorologist you have to study atmospheric studies, mathematics and statistics, computer sciences, meteorology, physics or ocean and climate sciences at university.

The instruments

OUR eyes are one of the best ways to detect weather. However

CLIMATE OR WEATHER?

What's the difference between climate and weather?

► "Climate is what you expect; weather is what you get."

► Climate is a record of the trends and averages of weather patterns over a long period of time.

► Weather is the day-to-day description of conditions.

meteorologists use a range of instruments that gauge different elements of the weather to make more accurate forecasts.

► A thermometer is a closed glass tube containing a liquid such as alcohol or mercury that uses a scale to show what the temperature is. When air around the tube heats the liquid, it expands and moves up the tube.

► A barometer measures the rise and fall of air pressure. A rising barometer means sunny and dry conditions while a falling barometer means stormy and wet conditions.

► A rain gauge measures the amount of rain over a specific time (usually 24 hours).

► An anemometer gives a reading of the wind speed (velocity). It looks like plastic spoons mounted sideways so the wind can spin them determining the speed.

► A wind vane verifies the direction from which the wind is blowing.

► A hygrometer measures the humidity or content of water in the air.

► Weather satellites are used to photograph and track large-scale air movements. Meteorologists use this data to compile weather maps that indicate the atmospheric conditions above a large portion of the surface.



WHAT'S NEWS

A national exercise

MORE than one million students across Australia between the ages of seven and 15 all took part in the same exercise last week – the annual NAPLAN tests. The years 3, 5, 7 and 9 tests, now in their fifth year, measure school performance in reading, writing and numeracy with the results published on the My School website later in the year. Some educationalists, academics and lobby groups oppose NAPLAN claiming that the pressure for schools to succeed has meant teaching to tests instead of engaging students in learning. What do you think? Go online and take the poll – is NAPLAN a realistic and useful diagnostic tool?

New Wiggles line-up

MOVE over Dorothy, there's a new lady in the Wiggles camp. Emma Watkins has graduated to the role of Yellow Wiggle alongside fellow Wiggles backing dancers Lachlan Gillepsie and Simon Pryce. Blue Wiggle Anthony Field is the only original member who will remain with the group. Greg Page, Murray Cook and Jeff Fatt will hang up their skivvies after 21 years together in the Big Red Car.



SPECIAL NOTE

In relation to last week's page Living within the Law, note that laws differ from state to state and therefore it is important to check the laws which apply to where you live or are visiting. For example in Queensland the liquor act does not allow minors (under 18) to drink alcohol in hotels or restaurants.

NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC:

SAYING SORRY

