

ISLAND KIDS

& PAPERBENTOS

GREGORY GRAMBO

Weather Forecasting

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Weather Forecasting

Knowledge of what the weather will be is of interest to everyone. It can help you in planning your sports activities, picnics and hikes.

Some say that no one can predict, or forecast, the weather. This is an untrue fact. Forecasting the weather relies a great deal on careful observations of sky conditions. In order for it to rain or snow you first need a cloud.

A cloud is like a sponge, it can only hold so much water. When it reaches it's limit, water vapor will begin to condense and will fall from the cloud.

These clouds are pushed by the wind. If you know where the clouds are now, and if you know the direction and speed of the wind, you can tell if the clouds will be pushed in your direction and when they will get there. Humidity is the amount of moisture, or water, in the air. Warm air tends to hold more water than cool air can. If the air in your region is warm and moist, and if

cool air is blowing into your region, the water in your warm air will condense and will begin to fall as rain. Charting the movements of air, and keeping track of air temperature and humidity will enable you to figure out what the weather will be.

You will need to use a few tools to be a weather forecaster. First you will need to get a thermometer so that you can find the temperature of the air in your region. Attach this thermometer to your garage or to a board outside your house or apartment. A wind sock made from a coat hanger and a recycled plastic bag (see diagram) along with a magnetic compass will tell you the direction the wind is blowing into. A rain gauge, made from a jar and a plastic ruler (see diagram) will help you collect and

tell about the quantity of water that falls from the sky. You can find out about the humidity from the news and you can look at weather maps and satellite photographs in the newspaper. After keeping track of your weather information for a month, you should

begin to notice patterns that tell about the weather. Northwest winds bring fair cool weather, while north east winds bring cold and snow in the winter and cold rain in the summer. Some sky patterns like a sunset in a cloudless sky will bring fair weather, while a ring around the

moon or sun usually means that a storm may come. Keep track of your information and record it on your charts. Call your weather predictions in to your local radio stations and have fun learning about your world.



HURRICANES

Hurricane season in the Atlantic and Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico, is June to November.

Hurricanes born in the Atlantic move in a westward direction gaining strength as it travels.

Wind speeds range from 74mph up to 200mph and in the northern hemisphere they blow counter-clockwise. But in the southern hemisphere the direction of the winds is clockwise.

The combination of moist air and heat fuel hurricanes.

The strongest winds and heaviest rain of a hurricane occur within its wall clouds. Wall clouds are storm clouds that surround the eye of a hurricane. The eye of the hurricane (its center) is calm.

People in various parts of the world call hurricanes different names. In India, they are known as cyclones, in the Far East-typhoons, in the Philippines-baguios, and in Australia they are known as willy-willies. Meteorologists use a number of devices and collect various information to forecast where a hurricane will hit and how strong it will be. They monitor air pressure, temperature and wind speeds. They track the storm with satellites, airplanes and radar and they warn communities that appear to be in the storm's path.

Meteorologists of the U.S. National Weather Service name all the hurricanes that start in the Caribbean. Starting with the first letter in the alphabet a female name is given to the first hurricane of the season, a male name for the next, continuing throughout the alphabet and alternating between male and female throughout the hurricane season. — *The Editors.*



