



CLIMATE vs. WEATHER: The WEATHER VANE (3-5)

The SCIENCE of WEATHER:

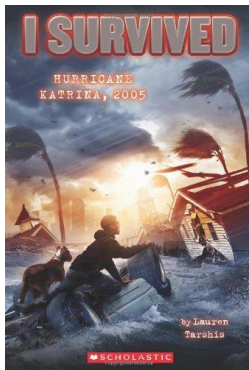
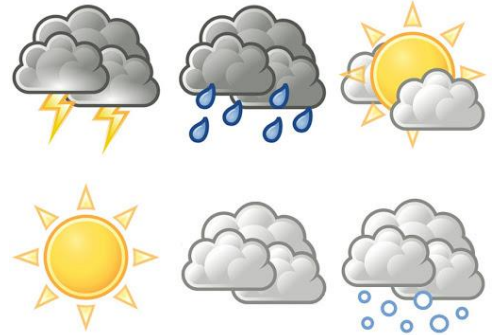
Weather is the day to day temperature and precipitation (atmospheric conditions)

Climate is the average atmospheric conditions in a region over a long period of time.

Meteorologists are scientists who study the weather.

Wind is air that moves with both speed and direction.

Air currents are caused by changes in air pressure and the rotation of the earth.



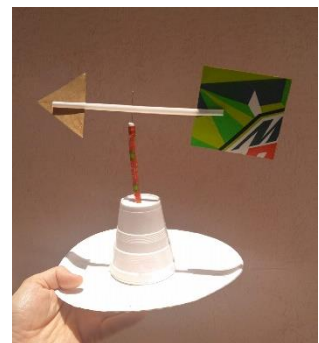
LITERACY CONNECTION:

[*I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005*](#), by Lauren Tarshis, is a fictional story about a real storm that struck several states and virtually destroyed the city of New Orleans. Don't have the book? You can read along with the [Kids Book Zone](#) online.

ACTIVITY: WEATHER VANE

Materials: thin cardboard (cereal box is great), straw, scissors, tape, paper plate, paper cup, markers, pencil with an eraser, pin, compass, ruler, rocks/pennies

1. Cut a square of cardboard about 3 ½ in x 3 ½ in AND a triangle shape about 2 ½ in tall.
2. Cut a slit in each end of the straw.
3. Slide the cardboard onto each end of the straw and tape it.
4. Write *North, South, East* and *West* on the plate (shown)
5. Glue the cup upside down in the center of the plate.
6. Push the pencil through the top of the cup
TIP: Don't push too tight –the straw should be able to spin
7. Mark the center of the straw and push the pin through the straw and into the pencil eraser
8. Use the compass to line up with north, and weigh the plate down with rocks, pennies, etc.



EXPLORE: When the wind blows, the arrow will point to the direction the wind is coming from! To better understand weather and wind patterns, watch this [Eco-Wise video](#).

For step-by-step instructions, watch the video at: [Weather Vane STEM Activity](#)

This at-home educational activity is from the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's literacy-based Stories & STEM program. Stories & STEM is made possible with support from Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc., which receives significant funding from the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.

Having fun? Send pictures or video links of you and your Stories & STEM projects to csharkey@literacypbc.org