

CREATE A WINDSOCK AND WEATHER COLLAGE

One impact of climate change in Minnesota includes weather patterns changing. Weather patterns will become more extreme with increased frequency of both flooding and droughts. Heat waves could also increase, which could result in extremely hot summer days and an increase in incidence of heat-related illness and death. Milder winters with less snow will impact animal hibernation patterns, stressing food supplies and habitats. Learning about weather through creating a windsock or weather collage can help children understand its relationship to climate change and the predicted impacts in Minnesota.

Outcome

Parents and children will create a windsock or weather collage to learn about weather and understand how climate change will impact weather in Minnesota.

Audience

Youth (ages 4 - 8 years), parents and children

Time

30 minutes

Concepts

- Climate change will impact weather in Minnesota in many ways.
- Learn how weather and climate are connected.
- Windsocks are one way to observe and learn about weather.

Supplies

Windsock

- Construction paper
- Art supplies for decorating (tempera paint, crayons, colored pencils, etc.)
- Scraps of colorful ribbon cut to about 5 to 12 inches
- Tape, glue or staples
- Hole-punch, pen, needle, or small screw to punch holes in paper
- Yarn or string

Weather collage

- Old magazines and newspapers
- Scissors
- Tape or glue



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Preparation

- Gather materials in advance.
- Make an example windsock.

Procedure

Windsock

- Have participants go outside or look out a window to observe the weather.
- Ask children to observe the wind, is it blowing hard or just barely? Discuss how wind is an aspect of weather.
- Have children decorate the construction paper with the art supplies how they desire. Some ideas: animals, plants, their favorite outdoor spot, different types of weather, etc.
- Roll the construction paper up from end to end and then tape, glue or staple the ends together.
- Glue strips of ribbon around the bottom inside of the windsock.
- Punch two holes in the top of the windsock, directly across from each other.
- Feed yarn or string through the two holes to create about a 6 inch loop and tie a knot at the end.
- Hang the windsock outside where parents and children can easily observe the wind moving through the windsock.

Weather collage

- Choose magazine pictures or photographs that depict different types of weather and impacts of climate change. Use scissors to cut the photos from the magazines or newspapers.
- Encourage youth to sort and organize the pictures.
- With tape or glue, make a mural of weather images by fastening the photos together. Make one for your group or make individual collages for the youth to take home.
- Discuss the different types of weather that can occur at different times of the year.

Additional activity ideas

Taking the temperature

- Encourage children to learn about the weather by going outdoors and observing the weather. Monitoring observations over time can also help children recognize patterns and trends in nature.
- Bring children outside with note pads and writing utensils for observations. Ask the children to describe how the temperature feels (hot or cold), is there is any wind, is the sun shining?
- If the group has access to binoculars, look for animals and plants nearby. How does weather impact animals and plants?
- If children are able to write, have them write or draw their observations on a notepad, or else have an adult take notes.
- If a thermometer is available, have children check the temperature.
- Bring the children outside to the same area daily or weekly so they can observe weather changes over time. Ask children what differences they have noticed outside. Ask what patterns and trends they noticed in the weather over time.