

Observing Weather and Climate

A WebQuest for *Careers in Earth Science– Weather Observer*

Introduction

Your parents and the neighbors are talking in the back yard when the subject turns to weather. They compare the kind of weather they remember from their childhood to today's weather. The snow was deeper, or the days were sunnier then compared to now. It makes you think about what you learned about climate variations and you wonder, whose job is it to measure and keep track of temperature and precipitation?

Task

You have been hired by the local college to help with their upcoming career fair. You'll learn something of the history and current events of weather observing, and how their observations are used. Your task is to create a pamphlet that describes the duties of weather observers.

Research

Use the following questions to guide your research.
(Record your answers on the sheet provided)

1. What does a weather observer do?
2. How does a weather observer collect observations?
3. Who uses the data collected?
4. Are there professional opportunities for weather observers?
5. Where do weather observers make their observations?
6. What kinds of equipment do they use?
7. Is training available?

Product

You will create an attractive, three-fold pamphlet that describes the work of a weather observer. You may produce the pamphlet by hand, or use a computer program to produce the finished product. Use art, text, and headings to inform the reader of the pamphlet about the history and the benefits derived from weather observing, and opportunities for weather observers. Be sure to include visuals and charts relevant to weather observations and the equipment used by weather observers. Use the research questions above to help you organize & design your pamphlet. Include any additional information you find interesting.

Resources

The National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service have extensive Web sites, which can provide helpful facts on weather observing. Research other government and education sites for additional information. Be sure to verify your information.

Evaluation

Read the following rubric to see how you will be scored on the WebQuest.

Criteria					Points
	0	5	10	15	
Task	The task was not completed.	Some effort was made, but major ideas are missing.	The task was completed, but some information was incorrect.	The task was completed with great attention to detail.	
Research	The process was not followed or used.	The process was followed, but not all information was obtained.	The process was followed, but some answers were incorrect.	It was clear that the information gathered was complete and informative.	
Product	The product was not done, or not done well and is incomplete.	The product included most of the required elements and important ideas. An attempt was made to make it appealing.	The product included all the required elements and some important ideas, and was visually appealing.	The product included all the required elements, was exceptionally appealing, and included extra, helpful information not asked for.	
Total Score					

