Earth Science   Name:_____

Severe Weather Volunteers
A WebQuest for *On Site−Storm Spotters*

Introduction

A severe weather bulletin interrupts your television program to tell you of a line of storms headed toward your community. Do you take refuge in a storm cellar or basement, or do you go out to observe the developing storms? If you're a weather spotter, you are already on your way to your vehicle.

Task

In this WebQuest you will be discovering what weather observers are and what they do. 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 storm spotters.

Research

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

1. What is the difference between a weather observer and a storm spotter?
2. Are all storm spotters tornado chasers?
3. Why do people chase storms?
4. Can't satellites and Doppler radar do the same things a storm spotter does?
5. What is the difference between a watch and a warning?
6. Who can be a storm spotter?
7. How do you get training?
8. Do storm chasers and storm spotters get paid?

Product

You will create an attractive, three-fold pamphlet with information about how to become a storm spotter and the training involved. 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 storm spotting. Be sure to include visuals and charts relevant to storm spotting. Use the research questions above to help you organize & design your pamphlet. Include any additional information you find interesting.

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<u>**Resources**</u>

Be sure to think critically about the Web sites you encounter as you search for information for this project. The National Weather Service and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) posts information online about weather and storm spotters.

<u>**Evaluation**</u>

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					

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<u>**Research**</u>

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