

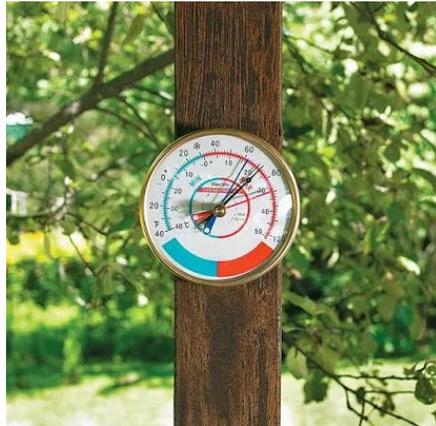
Lesson: Weather Station

Grades 3-5, MS, HS

This lesson is a self-guided activity for students

You can relatively easily build a weather station at your school site using two eight foot 2'x4's, some bolts, nuts, a saw and a drill. It should be at least eight feet high and away from buildings, trees, and power lines. Cut one board in half, drill holes and fasten it with the bolts to form an X for a stable base.

Mount a windsock on the top and hang a minimum/maximum thermometer at eye level. Add an inexpensive plastic rain gauge. The thermometer can be mounted on an outside wall or fence if building the pole is a problem. Some rain gauges come with spikes to insert them into garden soil.



This thermometer is \$21.50 from Lee Valley Tools. You can also read the minimum and maximum temperatures from cell phone weather apps.

Hang a clipboard with graph paper on the upright post. Add graph paper. Depending on the age of your students, have them set up a graph with days on the X axis, temperature on the Y axis.

Chart the minimum and maximum temperatures over time, record the 24 hour rainfall total and current wind direction.

Chart these on graph paper on a daily basis. Ask questions on how the temperature, rainfall, wind direction, and other observable weather factors vary with season.

From John Fisher, LifeLab.org

(See more at <https://www.lifelab.org/resources/weather-station>)