



# Forecasting the weather



# Introduction

## Overview

Hello, future Meteorologist!

How did you choose what clothes to wear today?  
Did you or your family and friends watch a weather forecast to decide?

Every day, Meteorologists at the Met Office provide weather forecasts to keep us safe, letting us know when it might rain, snow, or be great weather for ice cream. Yum! Take on the role of a weather presenter with the help of our Met Office Meteorologists - Aidan, Alex, Annie and Helen. Can you help present a weather forecast for your favourite season?

## 01 What is weather?

Start by showing the group pictures (slides 2-5) of different weather conditions in the UK. Discuss with the group what is happening in each picture or video. Do they think it's a sunny day, rainy day etc.

Tell the group that the weather is what we feel outside when we go out of the door to the playground or out of our home. The weather changes every day in the UK, where we live.

Knowing what the weather is going to be like when we go outside is very important when planning activities. We need to make sure we wear the right clothes and keep safe.



**Time required**  
10 minutes



### Materials needed

- YouTube access
- Met Office weather forecast videos for Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter:  
Spring - <https://youtu.be/TrKFagMo90Q>  
Summer - <https://youtu.be/tE0R-T4eCqU>  
Autumn - <https://youtu.be/NTWLU82QWuk>  
Winter - [https://youtu.be/EJofAnvp\\_3w](https://youtu.be/EJofAnvp_3w)
- Forecasting the Weather slide deck with maps, symbols and graphics
- (Optional) Colour in weather symbols

# Activity steps

## 02 What is a weather forecast?

Ask the group to think of ways they could find out what the weather is going to be like tomorrow. Take a few suggestions.

Hopefully, the group will have seen weather forecasts, on TV or apps, that family members may have watched with them.

Tell the group that the Met Office has important scientists called **Meteorologists (if possible, get the group to repeat the word out loud as it can be tricky to pronounce!)** who help people understand what weather is going to happen every day across the UK, where we live, and even across the whole world. These Meteorologists can provide us with a video called a [weather forecast](#).

Explain to the group that a weather forecast tells us what is likely to happen in a few hours, later today, tomorrow, or even next week. It can also help us make decisions on what to wear or how to we might plan to spend our day with our friends and family.

If you look out of your window, you might think you can tell what the weather is like. It could be bright sunshine and clear skies with no clouds, but when you go outside to play, it might be slippery, icy and feel very, very cold!

Ask the group: Would it be a good idea to wear your sandals when it's really cold and frosty outside? Hopefully not, as you'd get cold, frosty toes!

Listening to the weather forecast can help keep us safe... and have warm toes on frosty days.



10 minutes

## 03 How the Met Office forecasts the weather

But how does the Met Office forecast the weather? Tell the group that **Meteorologists** at the Met Office can't tell us (**forecast**) what the weather is going to be like if they don't know what it is doing right now. It's like trying to play football in the playground - you can't kick a ball to your friend unless you know where it is!



10 minutes

# Activity steps

First, some of the people who work at the Met Office take lots of weather observations, using lots of different equipment (show slides 6+7).

This equipment tells Meteorologists how windy it is, how warm it is outside, and how much rain is falling in different places across the UK.

All this information then gets sent to an amazing **SUPER**computer which does lots of sums and calculations using big numbers, to give the Meteorologists an idea of what the weather will be like tomorrow or over the next few days.

We are going to look at a weather forecast from the Met Office.

**Additional activity** - if you would like to make your own weather equipment, see our [Met Office for Schools DIY activities](#)

## 04 Weather forecast video

Choose a season video to watch with the group. You could watch all four.

Ask the group to listen to the words and look at the weather symbols used by the presenter in each video. The group will be using these words and symbols in their own forecasts later.

### Suggested questions

How do we know when it's going to be raining, cloudy or sunny in the weather forecast?

What weather symbols can you see?

What words are the presenters using to describe the weather?

What are the presenters wearing in the video for Spring/Summer/Autumn/Winter?

Where was their location on the map? North/South/East/West? Let's use the compass to find out.



5 minutes

# Activity steps



## 05 Creating your forecast

Tell the group that they are going to help the Met Office by providing their own weather forecasts for Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter.

Split the group into pairs or small groups and decide which season you would like them to present their forecast for.

There are two options for producing their forecasts:

- On paper – Print the UK map (slide 16) in A2 size and cut out the weather symbols (slide 13) to stick onto the map.
- On a whiteboard - Use the graphics for each of the different seasons (slides 9-12). Project the slide of your choosing on an interactive whiteboard or large screen (Symbols to add can be found on slide 14).

NB – we have provided you with two additional UK maps for you to choose from (slides 15 & 16).

**Additional activity** - Take the group outside, if possible, to make some weather observations before they present their forecast. Talk to the group about what the weather is like and feels like. Ask the group if they know what season they are in.

Using the Met Office weather symbols for guidance, encourage the students to create their own weather symbols to represent the different weather types. We have also provided you with blank weather symbols that the students can colour in.

 15 minutes

 15 minutes (if time)

 15 minutes

# Activity steps



## 06 Present your forecast

Give each group the opportunity to present their weather forecast to the larger group. You could even record their forecasts to play back. Encourage them to use the weather word mat provided for support (slide 18). They could also add in some safety tips for different seasons and weather conditions. For example, staying indoors during a thunderstorm or remembering to wear sun lotion when it is sunny outside.

Extension activity: If you'd like to learn more about the job of a Meteorologist at the Met Office, take a look at our ['Day in the life'](#) video.

If you'd like to share your forecasts with us, please tag us @metofficelearn.



5 minutes per group