



Looking at weather forecast to make business decisions

1 In this activity young people must use a range of important skills to make decisions that can affect the income of an important local business. Ask the group to form pairs. In these pairs they'll be coming up with a solution to a challenge facing Crewsdon Hall

2 Ask the group to imagine they are an Estate Manager at Crewsdon Hall. The estate has extensive grounds, agricultural land and an ancient hall and gardens that the public can sometimes visit. As an Estate Manager, they regularly use weather data to make decisions about activity on the estate, from when to harvest crops to when they open the gardens to the public

Explain that they will need to make a decision about the best date to open Crewsdon Hall gardens for Tulip Day. Every year, the public flock to the estate on one day to see the famous tulip displays in spring. However, if it is too wet, there is the risk of damaging the delicate grounds around the public car parks. If it's too windy, there is a risk that people might be injured by falling trees or branches. In the past, you have found that people don't visit if it's too wet, windy or cold. If people don't visit, then you don't sell enough tickets so your income goes down



15 minutes



Groupwork



Weather report worksheet

- 3 Each team will use the weather reports worksheet (on page 3) to decide when Tulip Day should be. Hand out a weather reports worksheet to the groups (on page 3) and ask them to read the reports for each day and write down in the last column if they think the date would be a good one to open up Crewsdon Hall or not. Give them about 10 minutes to decide which date they would choose
- 4 Ask each pair to nominate someone to write their chosen date on the whiteboard and share a reason why they decided that was the best date
- 5 Once all the teams have written their chosen date, reveal that the best date is Saturday 14 May. That is because it will be a warm day with no rain, and a light breeze. It means people will be likely to come on that day and the grounds around the public car parks won't be damaged. Congratulate the pairs that chose well
- 6 Finish off the activity by sharing the fact that the weather plays a prominent role in many jobs and that the Met Office data and reports are relied on by many businesses and organisations to make important decisions. Can they think of any other businesses that might use weather forecasts to help them make decisions?



Weather report worksheet

Date	Maximum temperature	Precipitation	Wind	Would it be a good day to open?	Why?
Friday 6th May	16°C	Dry in the morning, showers later in the day turning heavier overnight	Risk of strong wind in the afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Saturday 7th May	15°C	Heavy rain in the morning and cloudy most of the afternoon	Light wind throughout the day	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Sunday 8th May	22 °C	Sunny day with temperatures above average, risk of thunderstorms after lunch	Very strong winds associated with thunderstorms	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Friday 13th May	18 °C	Risk of heavy rain in the morning and scattered showers may develop in the afternoon	Light wind throughout the day	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Saturday 14th May	20°C	Mostly dry with spells of hazy sunshine	Light breeze might develop in the afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Sunday 15th May	15°C	Cloudy in the morning, with risk of hail in the afternoon	Strong winds may develop in the afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	