INQUIRY ACTIVITY
Data Analysis
Predict Weather

You looked at a picture of changing weather. Investigate to discover how weather can be predicted. Explain how this happens.

Make a Prediction What kind of weather will the area to the east of your location have tomorrow?

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Carry Out an Investigation

1. Look at a current weather map. Circle your area and circle a location to the east of you.

2. Look at a current weekly weather report for your area. Fill in the first row of the weekly forecast on the next page. Draw a symbol to represent the weather you find.

3. Use the information you found to predict what kind of weather the location east of you will have tomorrow and the next day. Add your predictions to the second row of the table.

4. Talk about your predictions with a partner.

Weekly Forecast					
Area	Day:___	Day:___	Day:__	Day:__	Day:__

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Prep: 15 min | **Class:** 30 min   small groups

Purpose

Students will predict weather patterns by analyzing weather data and maps.

Communicate Information

6. Check to see if students learned about their current weather and found patterns.

ASK: What can you learn by looking at weather near you on a weather map? Sample answer: You see weather that might be moving towards you soon.

Patterns

Students identify patterns in weather and use these patterns to make predictions.

ASK: What patterns did you notice? Sample answer: I noticed that the weather moved east.

Analyzing and Interpreting Data

Once students collect data, it must be presented in a form that can reveal any patterns and relationships.

ASK: How did the table help you interpret the weather patterns? Sample answer: I could compare the weather of the two cities in a way that was easy to read.

ASK: How could you improve this investigation? Sample answer: I would gather and analyze weekly weather reports from cities located in the north, south, and west from my location. I would use this information to confirm that weather generally moves from west to east.

Talk About It

With a partner, have students discuss whether their results supported their prediction.

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Carry Out an Investigation

1.

Weekly Forecast					
Area	**Day:___**	**Day:___**	**Day:__**	**Day:__**	**Day:__**
My Area:					
Area to the East:					

Communicate Information

6. What patterns did you notice between the weather report for your area and the one for the area east of you? How can you use this relationship to predict weather in the United States?

Sample answer: The weather east of me is similar to the weather I had the day before. I can predict that the weather is going to move move east.

Talk About It

With a partner, discuss your predictions for the area east of you. Are they the same as the weather report? Why do you think this is?