



Recording the Weather



About this Learning Resource

This resource encourages students to think about the difference between weather and climate. Students actively observe and record weather patterns and discuss how this differs, or is similar to, the climate. This activity will expand on what students learn about the different habitats at Chelsea Physic Garden.

It is a starting point for thinking about effects of climate change on habitats, the plants and animals within these habitats, as well as the importance of observation and data collection.

How to use this resource:

- You will need: pencils and thermometers (or an online weather application).
- Students record the weather over two weeks, noticing any fluctuations. Students may also chart their data on a graph, if interested.
- Discuss with students the difference between weather and climate. Focus on the variability of weather (short-term, daily conditions; something we are continually observing) versus the relative stability of climate (long-term conditions; something we observe over extended time periods).
- Discuss weather recording in the garden and why this is useful (e.g., knowing when to water and when to air glasshouses).
- Discuss weather recording over a long period of time and how this is used as evidence of climate change.
- Students may be interested in London resident, John Evelyn FRS, who was a diarist, writer, and gardener and recorded the weather and how it affected plants and air quality in the 1600s. More information can be found here: <https://www.thehistoryoflondon.co.uk/john-evelyn-2/>
- This artist, Jill Pelto, makes art works that include graphs of temperature and other climate records: <https://www.jillpelto.com/#intro>

National Curriculum Links:

KS1 Science

- Observing closely, using simple equipment.
- Gathering and recording data to help in answering questions.

KS2 Science

- Working scientifically.

Chelsea Physic Garden Visit

This resource supports all visits to Chelsea Physic Garden and can be used in the classroom at any time.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will know the importance of data collection and careful observation.
- Students will think about and apply the skills needed to be a researcher.
- Students will foster their curiosity and work on their observational skills.





Recording the Weather: Observation Activity



You will observe the weather while at school three times each day over two weeks. Fill in the date and time when you make your observations each day.

Make sure to write down as many details as you can so that you can notice any changes in the weather once you finish.

Day	Morning – temperature, cloud cover, wind, precipitation	Midday – temperature, cloud cover, wind, precipitation	Evening – temperature, cloud cover, wind, precipitation
Week 1			
Day 1: Monday			
Day 2: Tuesday			
Day 3: Wednesday			
Day 4: Thursday			
Day 5: Friday			
Week 2			
Day 6: Monday			
Day 7: Tuesday			
Day 8: Wednesday			
Day 9: Thursday			
Day 10: Friday			

Why is it important to collect data on the weather every day?

How is the data you collected on weather different from climate data?

What can researchers learn by tracking the weather over an extended period of time?

