

Name _____ Date _____

Activity 4.3 Making a Weather and Climate Timeline (Side 1)

Objectives

To research how people of different cultures and times have contributed to our knowledge about weather, and the impact of weather on events in history.

To create an appropriately-scaled and illustrated text and image timeline of weather discoveries and events.

Materials

- Student Worksheet 4.3.2 with Suggested URLs
- Student Worksheet 4.3.3 Rubric for scoring timelines
- reference materials (textbooks, almanacs, CD-ROMs, Internet)
- markers
- paper or adding machine tape, and other materials for poster presentations

Procedure

You are to research 50 important weather events and create a timeline that stretches far back into the past and spans several continents and cultures. You must include at least two events that happened during the BC time period. At least fifteen events must have occurred after BC and before 1900, and fifteen must have happened during in the 20th Century. The rest of the 50 events (i.e. 18 events) can be distributed in any time period you choose. At least 10 of the 50 events must involve discoveries of inventions outside Europe and North America.

The timeline must be made to scale and the scale must be the same for the entire timeline. Five inches per hundred years works well, but you can use whatever scale best fits your poster board or construction paper, so long as you are consistent. Make sure a scale indicator appears on your timeline. Map out the centuries using pencil before you begin putting events on the timeline. A jagged line signifying a break in the scale should only be used if there is a section where there are several centuries without any dates.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You can make your timeline in 3D, but you must create it for yourself. Commercial products (i.e. stickers) or timelines printed off the Internet or CD-ROMs are not acceptable.

The following questions may help you find significant weather dates:

- What new discoveries were made about the weather during this period?
- What instruments were invented to study the weather or to make weather predictions more accurate?
- What scientific discoveries were made in other parts of the world?
- What historical events were affected by weather?

Dig deep by following links from the Suggested URLs or use reference materials in the school library to find at least a few obscure dates and people to stump your teacher. (But don't make them up: you should have a source for all dates and names.) Illustrate your timeline with pictures of the scientists (with brief captions and dates) and depictions of the instruments of their time period.

Suggested URLs

Note: 42 dates appear in just the first URL, so you should not have a problem finding 50 dates in total.

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/storm/history/>

Major weather events from 1495 to 1995

<http://www.wrqb.com/directweather/history/index.html>

A Quick History of Meteorology

http://www.islandnet.com/~see/weather/general/site_map.htm#d

Weather Almanac—use the weather diary links for more dates.

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ol/reports/weather-events.html#1999>

Worldwide Weather Events of 1991-1999

<http://www.iinet.net.au/~jacob/worldtp.html>

World Temperature Extremes