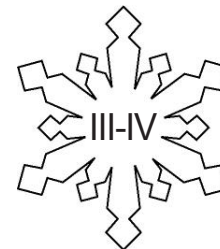


# Traditional Weather Observations

Levels



Grades 5-8

## Overview:

During this project, students interview their parents or Native Elders to find out answers to questions about the wind.

## Objectives:

The student will learn from Elders (or their parents) how wind is observed in the absence of weather instruments and why knowing wind strength and direction is important.

## GLEs Addressed:

### *Science*

- [5-8] SA1.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the processes of science by asking questions, predicting, observing, describing, measuring, classifying, making generalizations, inferring, and communicating.

## Materials:

- STUDENT WORKSHEET: Levels III-IV “Traditional Weather Observations”

## Activity Procedure:

1. Share the following quote from Inupiaq Elder Jonas Ramoth:  
“In the winter in Selawik, if it’s clear and cold, -20 degrees or -30 degrees, maybe there are a few clouds but it’s nice and calm. The wind isn’t supposed to blow. If the wind starts to blow when it’s not supposed to, people gathered in the store will say ‘Ooo, cold’. In Inupiaq they say ‘qiunaurauqtuq,’ which means ‘he’s beckoning the storm.’ If it is windy, it will be stormy--blowing, drifting snow. It makes you decide to stay home. Animals will stay home too. This is very reliable.”
2. Invite an Elder to the classroom for the students to interview, or, if that is not possible, ask students to speak with their parents or an Elder about the questions on their worksheets.
3. After most students return with completed worksheets, lead a classroom discussion. This discussion will give students an opportunity to express themselves in their own words. It also will give students who were not able to interview their parents or Elders the chance to fill in their student worksheets.
  - (a) In this community, if the wind is cold, from what direction is the wind usually blowing? Is this true in both summer and winter?
  - (b) Why is knowing wind direction and wind strength important to hunters?

## Answers to Student Worksheets:

Answers will vary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Traditional Weather Observations Student Worksheet

Levels



**Directions:** Ask your parents or an Elder the following questions. Record their responses using complete sentences.

1. In this community, if the wind is cold, from what direction is the wind usually blowing? Is this true in both summer and winter?

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2. Why is knowing wind direction and wind strength important to hunters?

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